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Rohit, Mayank make merry on opening day of first Test against South Africa
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NEARBY



NDA owes apology to people of Patna: Giriraj
BEGUSARAI (BIHAR)
The BJP-led NDA in Bihar owes an apology to the people of Patna who have been reeling from inundation following heavy rain, Union Minister Giriraj Singh said here on Wednesday. "It is not a failure of the people of Patna. It is our failure. Residents of the city have reposed so much trust in the NDA, especially the BJP. We owe an apology to them," said Mr. Singh, the Lok Sabha MP from Begusarai, attacking the Nitish Kumar government.

NORTH & EAST ▶ **PAGE 6**

SAD, INLD stitch alliance for Haryana polls

CHANDIGARH
Days after severing ties with the BJP in Haryana, the Shiromani Akali Dal on Wednesday announced to contest the State Assembly polls in alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal. The SAD had snapped ties with the BJP in the State after its lone MLA from Kalanwali, Balkaur Singh, switched sides.

NORTH ▶ **PAGE 5**

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Prime Minister Modi declares country open defecation-free

Mahatma's dream of 'Clean Bharat' fulfilled by government, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the country open defecation-free, claiming success for the government's initiative under which every household now apparently has access to a toilet.

"I am satisfied that on the occasion of Gandhi at 150, we are witnessing the fulfilment of his dream of *Swachh Bharat*. I feel lucky that on this occasion, when India has successfully stopped open defecation, I'm here at the ashram," he wrote in the visitor's book at Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram on Wednesday.

"The world is impressed by our success on the open defecation-free front, and is giving awards to us," Mr. Modi said, declaring that the country had achieved cleanliness in urban and rural areas, thanks to the government's push to build toilets.

Map unveiled

The Prime Minister pressed a remote, unveiling the map of India as open defecation-free at the Sabarmati river-front ground in the presence of more than 20,000 village heads from across the country and also representatives



Highlighting achievements: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing BJP workers at a meeting at the Ahmedabad airport on Wednesday. • PTI

from several countries. "Today, rural India has declared itself open defecation-free. This is a great achievement of the Swachh Bharat movement, which has people's participation," the Prime Minister said.

"On the call of Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom movement, people of the country mobilised for 'satyagrah' and they did the same now for 'swachhagrah,'" he said.

"In 60 months, 600 million people have been given access to toilets, more than 110 million toilets have been

built. The whole world is amazed to hear this," he said.

'A milestone'

"However, this achievement is just a milestone, and we should not stop here. The movement has to continue," he said, adding that sanitation, environment conservation and animals were dear to Mahatma Gandhi.

Mr. Modi credited ground-level volunteers with making Swachh Bharat and toilets a common man's topic after the government launched the initiative.

"This mission helped to make the toilet, which was earlier a difficult topic, a common topic of discussion. From girls who demanded a toilet before marriage to Bollywood, everyone contributed to the mission to make India an open defecation-free country," he added, acknowledging the contribution of every section in the public movement.

CONTINUED ON ▶ **PAGE 12**

PM MOOTS 'EINSTEIN CHALLENGE' IN TRIBUNE ▶ **PAGE 12**

'INDIA'S FOUNDATION IS LAID ON GANDHI'S VALUES' ▶ **PAGE 12**

U.S. warns partners of sanctions risk

Tells allies to forgo deals with Russia

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

On a day when External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said he was "reasonably convinced" of persuading the U.S. to accept India's decision on the purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defence system, U.S. officials warned that any such purchase might risk sanctions.

"We urge all of our allies and partners to forgo transactions with Russia that risk triggering sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)," a State Department spokesperson told *The Hindu* through email, hours after Mr. Jaishankar's comments on Tuesday.

India agreed to purchase the surface-to-air missile system from Russia in 2018 for about \$5.2 billion, risking sanctions under the CAATSA. Sanctions could kick in when the first payment for the equipment is made, unless the U.S. President grants a waiver.

'Waivers not automatic'

U.S. government officials have repeatedly said, in the Indian context, that countries should not assume that waivers are automatic.

Mr. Jaishankar, who is on a visit to Washington, following the United Nations



General Assembly high-level week in New York, has held or will hold meetings with U.S. government officials, including Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper.

The State Department, however, said Mr. Pompeo had not made any decision regarding India's transactions, when asked about possible sanctions. "The Secretary has not made any determination regarding the significance of any transaction involving India. We cannot prejudge whether a specific transaction would result in sanctions," a spokesperson told *The Hindu*.

JAISHANKAR REITERATES INDIA'S CLAIM TO PoK ▶ **PAGE 12**

Bank account norms likely to be reviewed

MANOJIT SAHA
MUMBAI

Following the hardships faced by customers in opening bank accounts, the government will review the norms for the same.

Top bankers highlighted the problem at a meeting with Finance Ministry officials last week. They said the officials were open to reviewing the issue after they were briefed about the problems.

The rules mandate proof of current address to open an account. Customers have to submit any of the six officially valid documents in proof of their address. The six documents are voter ID, passport, driving licence, letter issued by the National Population Register, NREGA job cards and Aadhaar.

Bankers said this caused major problems. They pointed to many instances of a person unable to open an account after shifting from a city or locality because he/she could not change his/her address in the documents. "We have highlighted the issue to the officials. They said they will look into it," a banker said.

Banks want utility bills, not older than three months, considered proof. For this, the government may have to amend the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Raining petals



Festive mood: An IAF helicopter showering flowers on the crowd gathered for the Dasara Air Show on the Bannimantap grounds in Mysuru on Wednesday. The 40-minute show also featured a slithering operation and sky diving. • M.A. SRIRAM

Opaque censorship leaves Twitter users chafing

Indian legal demands for content removal are the fourth highest in the world

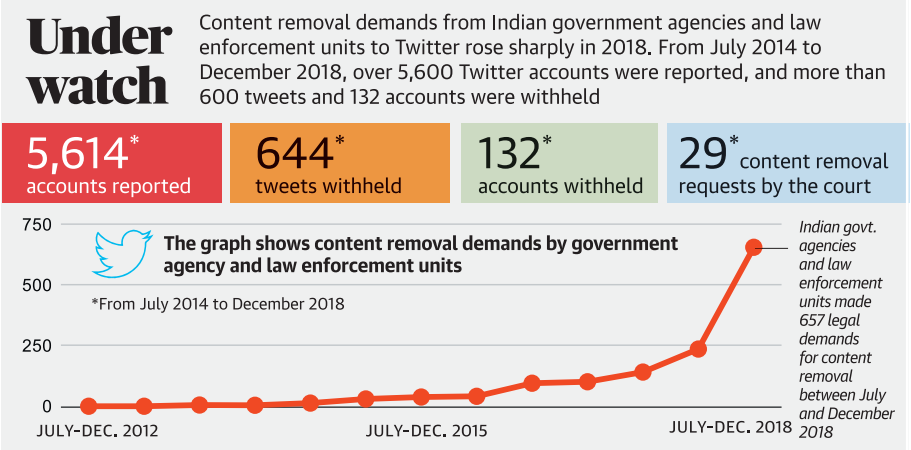
PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Despite the rising censorship of Twitter posts and accounts on the basis of legal demands from the Indian government, law enforcement agencies and others over the last five years, the lack of transparency behind suspensions, blocked tweets and the practice of shadow-banning has left users angry.

Between June and December 2018 (the last period for which data are available), the Indian government, the law enforcement agencies and others made 657 legal demands for content removal, besides 10 court orders. Overall, 2,228 accounts were reported, of which 95 accounts and 114 tweets were withheld.

100-fold increase

Indian demands for content removal were the fourth highest in the world for this



period, and have increased 100-fold from the same period five years ago.

When contacted by *The Hindu* about such cases of censorship and the process followed to ensure transparency, a Twitter spokesperson refused to answer specific questions, saying, "We don't comment on individual accounts for privacy and security reasons... At

Twitter, no one is above our rules. We enforce our policies judiciously and impartially for all users – regardless of their political beliefs and background."

Information on official legal requests made to Twitter is published twice a year, the spokesperson added.

According to Twitter records, many content removal demands from the Minis-

try of Electronics and Information Technology simply cited a violation of Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. When Twitter receives such a demand, it sends an email notice to the affected user. (Twitter says it does not send such notifications if prohibited from doing so.)

CONTINUED ON ▶ **PAGE 12**

'On duty' policemen face music for watching 'Sye Raa...'

Photo taken in cinema hall lands seven errant sub-inspectors in trouble

TADI VIDURA
KURNOOL

While fans of 'Megastar' Chiranjeevi erupted in joy and broke into a dance to watch the 'first day, first show' of his latest movie *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy* on Wednesday, seven sub-inspectors of police in Kurnool district had to face the music.

The policemen now face disciplinary action after they "bunked" duty to watch the new release.

The day saw overwhelming excitement among fans of Chiranjeevi as this was a project he had taken up after a long gap. The movie opened in cinemas across the country

in different languages.

People could not wait to see their favourite star essaying the role of the freedom fighter Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy. "The first day, first show" craze was all-pervasive, with fans ready to do anything to get inside the cinemas. Apparently, so were police officers.

The lucky ones who made it included a set of seven young sub-inspectors from Bandi Atmakur, Nandivargam, Kolimigundla, Allagadda Special Branch, Racharla, Owk, and Gospadu in Kurnool district, who gave their duties the go-by and went to a cinema in Koilakuntla for a special



In plain sight: The photo that the sub-inspectors took at a theatre in Koilakuntla on Wednesday. • U. SUBRAMANYAM

early morning show.

One of them, perhaps overjoyed by the festive mood, captured the moment by clicking a picture and posting it on a social media platform after the show. Little did he or the others realise that this would land them in trouble.

The image was brought to the notice of Superintendent of Police K. Fakeerappa, who asked the Deputy Superintendents of Police of Nandyal, Allagadda and Dhone to hold an inquiry against the sub-inspectors.

Though it was an early morning show, what seems

to have ticked off the Superintendent of Police was that these officers gathered at a theatre in Koilakuntla from different mandals.

No leave sought

The errant policemen had not sought permission nor did they apply for leave. Apart from that, a major reason for initiating action against them was the fact that it was Gandhi Jayanti.

Also, Village Secretariats, a welfare delivery scheme run by the Andhra Pradesh government, was to be inaugurated on Wednesday.

"The sub-inspectors picked a wrong day to skip work," said the officer. "If it were any other day, they might even have gotten away with it"

Pak. national moves HC for children's school admission

Gulsher migrated to India with his family in May

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Pakistani national, who claims to have migrated to India along with his family in May this year, has moved the Delhi High Court after a government school in the Capital rejected admission of his three children.

Gulsher, who is currently living at Bhatti Mines, Chhatrapur, in Delhi along with his family, said their case for Indian citizenship was under consideration by the Centre.

In his petition, filed through advocate Ashok Aggarwal, he claimed that he and his family migrated to India as they were "perse-

cuted and traumatised by Pakistani authorities".

"These Hindu families who migrated from Pakistan to India have a large number of school-age children who are required to be admitted in government schools so as to enable them to continue their education," the plea said.

Age objection

Mr. Gulsher's children – Sanjina Bai, Moona Kumari and Ravi Kumar – were seeking admission in different classes in a government school in Chhatrapur, but they were denied admission on the ground that they are overaged.

Advocate Aggarwal cited the case of another Pakistani Hindu refugee girl in 2016 who, despite having no educational documents, was granted admission in a Delhi school by relaxing the rules after her case was referred by then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The petition claimed that the case of the three children was put up before the Delhi government through the All India Parents Association. "However, no response has been received so far from the Directorate of Education, Delhi government," the plea said.

IN BRIEF



Tiwari launches flood relief donation camp

NEW DELHI
Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari on Wednesday launched a flood relief donation camp for his home State Bihar, where at least 42 people have died in rain-related incidents following a torrential spell that took place between September 27 and 30. PTI

Three arrested for killing man in Rohini

NEW DELHI
Three men were arrested for allegedly killing a man in Rohini's Prem Nagar, the police said on Wednesday. The accused Manish (26), Uday (25) and Neeraj (19), all residents of Prem Nagar, were arrested for killing one Ashish (22). A country-made pistol, along with four cartridges, was seized, the police said. PTI

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	90	Gurgaon	65
Ghaziabad	82	Faridabad	-
Greater Noida	102	Noida	118

Good

Satisfactory

Moderate

0-50

51-100

101-200

Poor

Very poor

Severe

201-300

301-400

>401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY
(AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

DELHI TODAY

Dance: "Mohan se Mohan", Odissi dance ballet seeking to draw interesting parallels between Shri Krishna and Mahatma Gandhi by exploring the message of Chakra and Charkha, choreographed by Suprava Mishra at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Book Launch: Nareish Rastogi and award-winning author Kiran Doshi will release their latest book 'The Jungle Calls-A Life in the Indian Army' at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 10.30 a.m.

Exhibition: "Tranquil Tapestry", a solo photography exhibition, which captures wildlife by Alvia Syed at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Maui-e-Junoon (waves of obsession)", a group show of paintings by Anita Malik, Dr. Ranjan Malik, Dr. Richa Dhamija & Vipul Saini at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Exhibition: "Like Siesta...", a show of paintings by Jasleena Singh at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

DDA likely to e-auction plots for several projects

Land for housing, commercial use to go under the hammer

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is likely to launch an e-auction scheme to sell plots meant for group housing projects, marriage halls and commercial developments soon, senior officials said.

The scheme which is likely to be launched by October 12, will include around eight plots for group housing projects and 17 plots meant for marriage halls.

"The plots for group housing projects are in areas, including Vishwas Nagar, Dhirpur and some in Dwarka. The initial proposal also had plots in Vasant Kunj but those are not being included in the first phase. It is likely to be put up for auction in the second phase," said Subu. R, Commissioner, Land Disposal.

Among the 17 plots meant for marriage halls, most are

All the four categories to be included in the e-auction are big ticket ones where large-scale development can take place

SUBU. R
Commissioner, Land Disposal

located in Rohini and Pitampura areas, he added.

"The plots for the marriage halls will not be freehold ones but on lease. They will be leased for one year and stakeholders are required to renew them every year," Mr. Subu added.

300 more plots
Additionally, around 300 plots will be included in the e-auction under the category of expandable housing plots. "These plots are located in Rohini, Dwarka and some in East Delhi. Following the auction process, stakeholders

can develop the plots according to norms laid down in the master plan. They will also be allowed to amalgamate land in case they want a larger area," a senior official explained.

The e-auction will also include plots meant for multiple-use commercial development across the national capital. The vacant plots identified in Karkarduma, Peeragarhi and Mayapuri Vihar, among other areas, are around 30 to 35 acres each, the official said.

The move is aimed at creating "iconic structures" in the Capital for the people, officials of the urban body said. "All the four categories to be included in the e-auction are big ticket ones where large-scale development can take place. Considering this fact, DDA is likely to give more than the usual three-week deadline for registrations," said Mr. Subu.

Delhi-NCR students create two Guinness records

Feat in environment protection category

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
Students from Delhi-NCR region created two Guinness Book world records for environment protection on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, an official statement said on Wednesday.

5,000 children
The first record was in the category of 'environmental sustainability lessons to the largest number of students at one place' wherein close to 5,000 children participated, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said in a release.

The second record is of 'the largest number of assembly and lighting of solar lamps' in which more than 5,000 students took part. Officials from the Guinness

Book of World Records were present at the event.

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar congratulated the students and called for creating own oxygen bank by planting at least seven trees during one's lifetime.

The Minister also administered the oath of non-violence towards environment to all the students.

Power Minister R.K. Singh said that world is facing a serious threat from climate change.

"We all should take pledge that we will leave a better world for our future generations. The future world will be the world of producer, not the world of consumer as every home will produce power from solar," Mr. Singh said.

Plea against judicial officials' leave without notice

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court has decided to consider the issue of judicial officers taking leave without timely informing the advocates and litigants, causing them inconvenience.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar was hearing a petition seeking directions for prior intimation by judicial officers intending to take

leave, as done by the judges of the High Court.

The petition said one prime hardship is that parties are not given sufficient notice of leave obtained by a judicial officer.

Advocate Amish Aggarwala, the petitioner in the case, said judges of the High Court inform the registry well in advance if they are on leave and consequently when the final cause list is uploaded

for the next day, advocates, litigants and others are well informed about it.

"This petition merely seeks that courts of Delhi Judicial Service merely follow the footsteps of this court and timely notice of officers' leave may be intimated to the public," he said.

The plea said though the trial courts' website has a 'judges on leave section', the same is redundant.

The petitioner claimed that he routinely checks the 'judges on leave section', only to observe that updated list of judicial officers on leave for a particular day is uploaded only after 11 a.m. on the day itself. It sought direction to judicial officers of the Delhi District Courts to inform the District and Sessions Judge 24 hours in advance of their intention to take a leave.

Air quality likely to dip to 'moderate' by Oct. 5

AQI to deteriorate as wind direction changes to northwesterly, says SAFAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
The air quality in the national capital was recorded in the "satisfactory" level on Wednesday but it is predicted to slip into the "moderate" category by Friday as wind direction changes to northwesterly.

Westerly and northwesterly winds bring dust from western regions and smoke caused by burning of crop residue in neighbouring Punjab and Haryana to Delhi-NCR.

However, the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And



Research (SAFAR) said even a change in wind direction won't drastically impact Delhi's AQI for at least a week.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and SAFAR on Wednesday recorded the city's air quality index in the "satisfactory" category - at 90 and 71, respectively.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very

poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

Delhi's air quality is predicted to deteriorate to the "moderate" category by October 5 as a result of change in wind direction from easterly to north and northwesterly, SAFAR said, adding satellite data has indicated sporadic biomass burning signatures in north India over the last week but no increasing trend in fires counts has been noticed.

Brush with Durga



An artist from Bengal giving final touches to an idol at Delhi Durga Puja Samiti in Kashmere Gate. The Samiti is preparing for its 109th year of puja celebrations in the Capital. ■V.V. KRISHNAN

Provide clean drinking water to traffic policemen: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court has directed the government to provide clean drinking water and regular medical examination to the Delhi Traffic Police personnel.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar said the Centre should take care of all its staff on a monthly basis.

"It is expected from the higher administrative officers of the respondents that they shall provide clean drinking water, sanitation and regular medical examination to Delhi Police personnel and, that too, on a regular basis, in accordance with law, rules, regulations and government policy.

"If there is any violation of such type of rules, regulations or government policy, the police personnel can always approach the appropriate authority or court for redressal of their grievances in accordance with law," the Bench said.

The observation came while the court was disposing of a plea filed by the Legal Forum for Women Empowerment, seeking directions to the Centre and the Delhi government to prepare draft rules and regulations for maintaining proper records of the facilities to be provided to the Delhi Traffic Police with regard to clean drinking water, sanitation and regular medical examination.

Sisodia opens two FOBs, 10 mohalla clinics

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia inaugurated two foot overbridges and 10 new Mohalla Clinics in Greater Kailash Assembly constituency on Wednesday.

Apart from the two foot overbridges at Chirag Delhi and Sheikh Sarai, Mr. Sisodia along with PWD Minister Satyender Jain laid the foundation stones for two other foot overbridges at Krishi Vihar- Panchsheel Enclave and near Select Citywalk Mall opposite Khirki Extension.

A Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor in the area has also been removed.

Speaking at the occasion, area MLA, Saurabh Bhardwaj, said, "It is a big thing that the BRT corridor, which was a cause of various hurdles, has been removed."

Keeping alive India's traditional handicrafts

4-day fest showcases knowledge systems

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
To celebrate India being one of the most hand-skilled nation in a world of rapidly deskilling communities, a four-day festival titled 'Nayi Taleem' began on Wednesday. Organised by the The Asian Heritage Foundation, the exhibition will showcase the 'parampara' of those who make crafts for others and how skills form an integral part of the heritage of India.

"Nayi Taleem is the principle of transmitting the whole education of the body, mind and soul through skilful labour," the organisers said.

"On Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, we will attempt to revitalise the principles of Nayi Taleem with a four-day series of events designed to bring together the traditional knowledge systems and no-

vel design practices as showcased in the various iterations at the foundation," the organisers said.

The lineup of activities planned include an amalgamation of design exhibitions, performing arts, stakeholder consultations, artisan-designer round tables and mass spinning of charkhas to highlight Gandhian people-centric economics that are important for environmental and human sustainability.

On the third day, choreographed by Maitreyee Pahari, a performance by Ragini, grand daughter of Pt. Briju Maharaj, will tell the story of Khadi. There will also be a food festival. The event will showcase products made by artisans in 22 clusters of India at T-112, Aam Bagh, Mehrauli till October 5.

IIT-incubated start-up launches book on Mahatma in Braille

It contains tactile graphics which can be easily perceivable

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary with Raised Lines Foundation, a non-profit IIT-Delhi incubated start-up launching three bilingual tactile books, including one titled 'Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi'.

The start-up has been working on developing affordable tactile graphics for persons with visual impairment.

The book focuses on the life, work and teachings of Gandhi and contains tactile representations of key elements and articles related to Bapu's life, his campaign towards India's Independence, his teachings and

This book provides an opportunity to a person with visual impairment to understand and be inspired by Gandhi's principles, dedication...

IIT-DELHI

principals of non-violent resistance. All these graphical representations are easily perceivable via touch.

"This book provides an opportunity to a person with visual impairment to understand and be inspired by Gandhi's principles, dedication and struggle towards righteousness," IIT said.

The other two books are titled 'About India' and 'In-

credible India'.

Accessible via touch
The institute said that the books are created keeping inclusive set up in mind and therefore all the content is in print along with Braille and that all graphics are designed based on tactile guidelines for easy comprehensibility via touch.

IIT Director V. Ramgopal Rao also announced that Gramodaya Parisar at IIT-Delhi has been renamed "Mahatma Gandhi Gramodaya Parisar". He also announced that IIT is formulating policies for "Institute Social Responsibility" and all society outreach activities by the university would be consolidated through this platform.

EDMC takes up plogging on Gandhi Jayanti

Participants collect plastic waste on the go

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) on Wednesday morning organised plogging (picking up litter while jogging) on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Laxmi Nagar. Participants collected plastic waste on the go and created awareness about the activity.

"The objective of this drive was to create awareness and connect all citizens of east Delhi to participate in the campaign by contributing to collection, disposal and elimination of single-use plastic to beat pollution," the EDMC said.

After the drive, Mayor Anju Kamalkant and Commissioner Dilraj Kaur flagged off 64 plastic waste collection vehicles to waste-to-energy plant in

If we discourage the use of plastic at institution, group and individual level, then there will be pleasant results

ANJU KAMALKANT
Mayor

Ghazipur.

Ms. Kamalkant said east Delhi could become plastic-free only through public participation. "If we discourage the use of plastic at institution, group and individual level, then there will be pleasant results," she said.

EDMC also organised cleanliness drives at Karkardooma community centre, plastic shramdaan in all 64 wards, cycle rally at Mayapuri Vihar, and plogging at Ghazipur paper market.

Court acquits man in wife's death case

It took note of the post-mortem report, which ruled out unnatural death

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has acquitted a man of the charge of abetting his wife to die, noting that the post-mortem report ruled out unnatural death of the victim at Mandawali in east Delhi in 2011.

The victim had died at a hospital after remaining in coma for a few days.

"B.N. Acharya has conducted the post-mortem of deceased Seema. In his cross-examination by counsel for the accused, he has

admitted that the deceased died a natural death and no poison was found during post-mortem," Additional Sessions Judge Surinder Kumar Sharma said in his order.

"Thus, from the statement of prosecution witness B.N. Acharya, it is clear that deceased Seema died a natural death and no poisonous substance was found in her body. Therefore, in my considered opinion, the prosecution has failed to prove the charge under Section 306 IPC against accused

Rajesh Rai. The accused is, accordingly, acquitted of the charge," the judge said.

The Mandawali police had registered a case against Mr. Rai on a complaint by the brother of the deceased, alleging that his sister's husband was responsible for the extreme step she took as they had failed to fulfil his demand of ₹1 lakh as dowry.

The complainant and his wife supported the prosecution case, whereas the victim's son, her two neighbours and the landlord of the

house where the couple stayed as tenants went against it.

The accused, in his defence, said that the victim's brother had implicated him in the case to harass him as he was demanding money from him.

Though the police had charge-sheeted the accused under various other provisions of the IPC and under Section 3 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, the court put him on trial only for abetting commission of suicide.

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• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543

• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP

• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Shoppers welcome plastic ban in Dilli Haats, rue lack of alternatives

People not allowed to carry bags of chips or biscuits that came in plastic wrappers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Wednesday banned single-use plastic at all three Dilli Haats and the Garden of Five Senses in Saket under the nationwide campaign, Swachhata Hi Seva.

When 21-year-old Paras Abbott and 23-year-old Swastika arrived at the gates of the INA Dilli Haat around 4 p.m., they were stopped by the guard's exclamation: "Yahan plastic allowed nahi hai" (No plastic is allowed here)" as he pointed to their plastic water bottles.

A board put up by the Delhi Tourism Department near the entrance read: "Using single-use plastic in the premises of Dilli Haat INA is a punishable offence".

Left with no option, they walked to a nearby blue-coloured dustbin and finished drinking their water before disposing of the bottles and entering the market. "It is a good move to ban plastic, but there should be alternatives, without that it won't work," said Mr. Abbott.

Spot checks by *The Hindu* at INA Dilli Haat and the Garden of Five Senses uncovered implementation issues and a mixed response from the public, who rued lack of alternatives to plastic. Though people said that alternatives are expensive, almost all said that banning plastic was a "good move".

At both locations, people were not allowed to carry bags of chips or biscuits which came in plastic wrappers. They were also not provided any paper bags to carry the plastic items.

Though NGO Delhi Greens was selling cloth bags inside the entrance of INA Dilli Haat — just for the day —



Women segregate plastic bags and bottles in Delhi.
• FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Converting plastic waste into fuel

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority on Wednesday signed an MoU with the local civic bodies and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to set up plastic-waste conversion units.

The DDA will provide land for setting up the units while the civic bodies and the New Delhi

Municipal Council will provide segregated plastic waste as feedstock to the plants.

"The Indian Institute of Petroleum, CSIR, Dehradun, will provide the technology and technical supervision. CSIR has developed technology to convert plastic waste into fuel, tiles, etc.," read a statement issued by the urban body

there was no such outlet at the Garden of Five Senses.

"They should provide alternative if they are not allowing even chips inside," said Manisha Singh, 20, a visitor at the garden.

At Dilli Haat, while most people were seen coming out with cloth bags, some were given plastic bags by shopkeepers. "I was not charged extra for the cloth bags," said O.P. Aneja, 72, who had three cloth bags.

There was a cupboard, which doubled up as a 'cloak room', where visitors could leave their plastic waste

bottles at Dilli Haat, but there was no such facility at the garden.

Relenting to pressure

Around 5 p.m., guards at the garden started allowing people to enter the area with plastic bottles.

"In the morning, we did not allow people to enter with plastic bottles, but by afternoon people started complaining that there was no other way to get drinking water and we started allowing them to carry their water bottles. What else can we do?" the guard asked.

NDMC opens three outlets to sell jute bags

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday launched three outlets 'Saksham Eco Mart', which sell environment friendly alternatives to single-use plastic such as cloth bags, jute bags, and paper bags.

The outlets — located on Kautilya Marg, Niti Marg and Jai Singh Road — will be run by women and the products will be made by students and NGOs. The NDMC also organised awareness programmes against use of plastic.

"This initiative by the NDMC will help promote entrepreneurship, empowerment and above all financial literacy among women," said NDMC chairman Vijay Kumar Dev. He was addressing a gathering at the inauguration of an outlet on Kautilya Marg.

Mr. Dev appealed to the NDMC to scale up the initiative so that the message of "No use of single plastic" reaches every household in the New Delhi area.

NDMC secretary Rashmi Singh said that the cloth bags and other alternatives will be prepared by students of the Women's Training Institute and NGOs. All three marts will be run by women working at NDMC Craft Centres.

"The sale proceeds will be used for the welfare of women associated with Saksham Eco Marts," she added.

Meanwhile, around 32,000 students and teachers of NDMC and Navyug schools took a pledge of "Plastic-free India".

One killed as speeding car hits two vehicles

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 48-year-old woman was killed and three others suffered injuries when a speeding car hit two vehicles in Civil Lines on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Monika Bhardwaj said that the deceased, Rajeshwari Yadav, was a resident of Laxmi Nagar. The injured are her daughters Deepthi (26) and Jyotsna (24), and the driver of the car they were travelling in Ishwar Singh (55).

The police said they got a call about the incident around 4 p.m. Initial probe revealed that the offending driver, Shrey Gupta (20), a resident of Timarpur, was with his three friends and

going from Civil Lines towards Indraprastha College.

"Near Vidhan Sabha metro station, he took a sharp turn in a rash and negligent manner and hit two sedan cars," Ms. Bhardwaj said.

The police said that Rajeshwari was rushed to Parmanand Hospital where she was declared brought dead. Her daughters Deepthi and Jyotsna suffered minor injuries. Driver Ishwar Singh suffered a leg fracture. The driver of the other vehicle, Sonu, escaped unhurt.

Shrey also suffered minor injuries and was discharged after treatment. The police said that a case is being lodged based on the complaint of Sonu and that the accused will be arrested.

CM to endorse clean air declaration at C40 summit

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will be among 20 leaders from megacities around the world to launch the 'Clean Air Cities Declaration', a set of short and long-term commitments towards cleaning the air, during the C40 Summit in Copenhagen.

The Delhi government will endorse the declaration and pledge to reduce emissions and air pollution in a set time frame on October 11 at the Tivoli Conference Centre in Copenhagen. The summit will be held from October 9-12.

Mr. Kejriwal will address a joint press conference with the Mayors of Paris, Los Angeles, Portland, and Barcelo-

na; as well as the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, and Governor of Jakarta, read an official statement.

The delegation from Delhi will take part in several bilateral meetings and Mr. Kejriwal is expected to share the challenges and successes of Delhi's effort to curb pollution.

The C40 Summit is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change.

"The CEO of the C40 Summit, Mark Watts, will meet Mr. Kejriwal to discuss Delhi's continued participation in the Climate Leadership Group and the ways in which Delhi could play a larger role towards fighting climate change," read the statement.

A 'sound' way to heal prisoners

Former Tihar DG conducts sound healing session with inmates on jail premises

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Around 3 p.m. on Tuesday, inmates at Tihar jail were in for a surprise when former Director General of the prison Vimla Mehra sat down with them in an attempt to heal them with sound.

In a first and impromptu programme, Ms. Mehra conducted a sound healing session with 10 inmates in Central Jail number 4 at Tihar School of Art. The session was also attended by Jail Superintendent Rajesh Chauhan.

Inside a small room, 10 inmates who were interested in the session lay on their back with their arms resting at the sides and eyes closed as the former DG pulled out the equipment — singing bowls, rimming sticks, wind chimes and tingsha bells — from her jute bag.

"Are you ready for



Vimla Mehra used singing bowls, rimming sticks, wind chimes and tingsha bells during the session. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

meditation? You'll hear sounds like you are listening to soothing music. Imagine you are in a jungle... there's fresh air... chirping of birds... you are breathing freely," she said to the inmates who appeared to be in a state of trance.

For the next 15 minutes, she used different combinations of the equipment which emanated "healing" sounds. The inmates were then asked to

slowly open their eyes and wake up to the environment around them.

'Food for soul'

"Ma'am, *neend aa gayi thi* [Ma'am, I fell asleep]," said an inmate after the session was over. Two others nodded in agreement.

Outside the room, in absence of any officers, Ravi Shankar Sharma (40), an undertrial who was arrested on charges of gang rape,

said: "It was food for my soul. I had heard about sound healing but never had this kind of experience."

Another inmate, Ramesh Sethi, who had heard of sound healing for the first time, said: "I am feeling a lot at peace."

Ms. Mehra, who started learning sound healing soon after her retirement, said she is planning to turn the session into a regular programme with the help of the jail authorities. "Sound healing regulates the flow of energy in your body. The sounds tend to affect particular organs and prevents illness. I have been close to Tihar and wish to help the inmates in whatever way I can," she said.

Ms. Mehra was Tihar DG from 2012 to 2014 and also the first woman Special Commissioner of Delhi Police.

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IN BRIEF

Man held at Delhi airport with four bullets

NEW DELHI
A 68-year-old passenger was apprehended by the CISF at GI Airport here on Wednesday for allegedly carrying four bullets in his baggage, a senior official said. The passenger, Dhian Chand, was handed over to the Delhi police. PTI

Production warrant against Talwar's aide

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has issued a production warrant against a close aide of corporate lobbyist Deepak Talwar in a money-laundering case related to negotiations allegedly favouring foreign private airlines and causing loss to state-owned Air India. The court directed the Tihar jail authorities to produce Yashmin Kapoor before it on October 3. PTI

Man kills employer for holding back salary for over 6 months

Accused arrested; he raised an alarm and tried to mislead police about murder

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A 68-year-old man has been allegedly killed by his employee, a labourer, for not paying the latter his dues for over six months in outer-north Delhi's Swaroop Nagar, the police said on Wednesday. The accused has been arrested, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said that the victim has been identified as Charan Singh, a resident of Bura's IP Colony, who is a plumber by profession. The accused has been identified as his employee Sarbu alias Suraj (32), he said.

The police said that around 10 p.m. on Tuesday, they received a call regarding a murder in Swaroop Na-



The accused in police custody. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

gar. When they reached the spot, a man was found lying in a pool of blood with a blunt force injury mark on his forehead. It was revealed that he was living with his employee Sarbu. Sarbu had raised an alarm and informed the police about the

incident.

The police said that during investigation, Sarbu's version was found suspicious and while he denied his involvement initially, he broke down during sustained interrogation.

Sarbu said he had come to

Delhi at the age of 16 and worked here as a labourer. He came in touch with Charan about six-seven months ago and started working for him at a daily wage of ₹250. "He used to work for Charan and also cook for him. Charan, however, would occasionally pay him only ₹50-100. On Monday, when he asked Charan for his dues the latter abused him. Sarbu was drunk at the time of the incident," Mr. Sharma said.

The accused then caught hold of an iron pipe and hit Charan on his forehead, the police said, adding that after making sure that the victim had died, he ran to the main road and raised an alarm. The murder weapon has been recovered, Mr. Sharma said.

Constable arrested for financial irregularity

He siphoned off arrears of 24 colleagues

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A police constable has been arrested in connection with alleged financial irregularities amounting to lakhs of rupees, the police said on Wednesday.

The police said that the accused constable Ajit Singh, who was posted in accounts department of Delhi's outer district, had misappropriated house rent allowance arrears of 24 constables to the tune of ₹19.44 lakh by getting the same transferred to the accounts of his wife by sending ECS instructions to the bank concerned.

Two others, including a woman sub-inspector, are absconding, the police said.

The matter came to light after the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police received several complaints

of corruption in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer Delhi), following which multiple teams raided the accounts section of the office on Tuesday, a senior official said.

"A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at EOW police station. The vigilance department has also been taken on board to investigate into the matter," the officer said.

"During interrogation, the accused, a resident of Mukandpur village in Haryana's Jhajjar, revealed that he was involved in the loot of the arrears of his colleagues. He had siphoned off about ₹20 lakh of the arrears of some 24 policemen and transferred the money to a private bank account of his wife," the officer also said.

Ex-IAS officer's 5-year jail term suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has suspended the five-year jail term awarded to a former IAS officer in a 32-year-old case of recovery of arms and ammunition from his possession, taking note of his old age and medical ailments.

Special Judge Illa Rawat granted the relief to 81-year-old Surender Singh Ahluwalia, saying he had made out a case for suspension of sentence and grant of bail to him till the disposal of the appeal against the jail term before the higher court.

The CBI had filed a case in August 1987 against Mr. Ahluwalia, then Secretary and Commissioner, Labour and Employment, Nagaland, for the possession of arms and ammunition beyond permission limits.

18 all-woman teams sensitise residents about personal safety

Move an attempt to curb incidents of snatching, robbery

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
In an attempt to curb incidents of snatching and robbery, 18 all-woman teams have been deployed in different parts of New Delhi to sensitise women about personal safety.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Eish Singhal, on Wednesday, said that the teams consisting of 36 women officers are patrolling areas which are prone to crime against women, including lonely stretches, crowded places and markets.

"The objective is to prevent crime and make women aware of the dos and don'ts of personal safety. The teams also are sensitising women about the various measures being taken



The teams comprising 36 officers are patrolling areas that are prone to crime against women. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

by the police and how to use Delhi Police applications like Himmat and Tatpar," he said.

The officer said that on Wednesday, more than 250 women were sensitised by staff who patrolled on two-wheelers at different places.

Several incidents of snatching have been reported in the Capital over the last two weeks. In the last five days, the police have arrested nearly 50 robbers and snatchers and questioned thousands of suspects.

Security stepped up across Delhi as festival season begins

5,933 arrested, 37,175 questioned as part of preventive steps

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
In the wake of terror threats and red alerts across the country, Delhi Police has beefed up security here as the city gears up for festivals like Durga Puja and Ramlila, officers said on Monday.

Delhi Police has intensified patrolling and picketing in several areas to ensure safety and security of people, especially women, and has arrested over 5,900 people as part of preventive measures last week, said a police officer.

The department has also taken special measures to intensify patrolling, especially on the routes leading to temples and places where Ramlila events are held.

During the drive last week, 37,175 suspects were



A security man keeps vigil near Red Fort. • FILE PHOTO

questioned by devotees. The police have also claimed that apart from the massive deployment, personnel in plain clothes have been deployed so that they can keep an eye on suspicious activities.

Picketing and traps

Dynamic picketing and traps have been laid out at vulnerable spots near metro stations, religious and busy market places, a senior police officer said.

Stringent action is being taken against robbers and snatchers, and whereabouts of recently released criminals are being constantly monitored, the police said.

They have also initiated dedicated patrolling by 'Prakhar' vans on specific routes, officers said.

NGT summons senior Haryana govt. officials

Plea against illegal dumping of garbage

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Following a plea seeking action against illegal dumping of garbage and discharge of untreated water by restaurants in Murthal, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed senior officials of the Haryana State government to be present before the tribunal on November 11.

The NGT directed authorities to move up timelines for installing solid waste treatment plants for the "protection of environment and public health".

Taking note of a report furnished by the pollution control board, the Bench observed, "It is clearly acknowledged that burning of waste was happening which is now claimed to have been stopped. It is also clear that liquid waste was being

mixed with solid waste which is now being remedied." "There is no reason why decentralised treatment has not been required to be set up by the restaurants," it said.

In the action-taken report submitted to the tribunal, the authorities had said that the integrated solid waste management project was expected to be completed by December 2020. Directing authorities to prepone the schedule, the Bench said, "The issues need to be resolved for the protection of environment and public health."

"According to the applicants, illegal disposal of solid and liquid waste is continuing in spite of order of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana..." the Bench noted.

Vehicle in wrong lane hits e-rickshaw, one killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA
A 35-year-old man travelling in an e-rickshaw was killed here on Wednesday when an unidentified four-wheeler coming from the opposite direction rammed the vehicle, the police said.

The driver and three other passengers of the e-rickshaw sustained injuries and had to be hospitalised after the incident that took place near Panchsheel, under Phase 2 police station limits, around 2 p.m., they said.

Deceased Hussain Ali hailed from West Bengal.

An FIR has been registered against unidentified persons under IPC Sections 279 (rash or negligent driving), 338 (grievous hurt) and 304A (negligent driving resulting in death).

Road rage



Residents of group housing societies along the Dwarka Expressway blocked the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway at the Kherki Daula toll plaza for around two hours on Wednesday. They were protesting against Millennium City Expressway Pvt Ltd, which allegedly dug up a road, connecting the two highways, that was built a day ago. MCEPL CEO S. Raghuraman said the road was constructed illegally in violation of a Punjab and Haryana High Court order and compromised the security of road users. • MANOJ KUMAR

Two arrested for running online gambling racket, 167 phones seized

A raid was conducted at a house in Jagatpuri's Jitar Nagar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Two persons have been arrested for allegedly facilitating an online gambling racket in Shahdara, the police said on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Amit Sharma said that the accused, Avnit Thapar and Manoj Kumar, are residents of Jagatpuri.



The accused used basic phones to reduce traceable technical footprint. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cricket matches

The police said they received a tip-off and conducted a raid at an accommodation in Jagatpuri's Jitar Nagar. "Avnit was found operating online gambling on cricket matches. A total of 167 phones were also seized from them," Mr. Sharma said.

During interrogation, Avnit told the police that he was running the racket with

his accomplice Manoj alias Kake, who was arrested from Ram Nagar.

The accused also told the police that the 166 phones were connected to each other and received transmissions from only one phone, which is handled by a person at an undisclosed location.

"This person decides the information to be transmitted on all the 166 phones after acquiring information

from online gambling sites," Mr. Sharma said.

Manoj told the police that he received ₹3,000 as rent for each mobile phone. All the phones are basic phones to reduce traceable technical footprint and had only incoming facility. All the financial transaction were done using online platforms, the police said.

Mr Sharma said that an in-depth investigation will be conducted in the matter.

Court upholds ₹10 lakh fine in cheque bounce case

Accused said complainant misused cheque issued as security to ensure payment

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI
A sessions court has dismissed an appeal by an accused against the imposition of a fine of ₹10 lakh on him in a cheque bounce case, saying that he failed to rebut that he had issued the cheque in the complainant's name to repay a loan of ₹5 lakh.

While punishing the accused, a Metropolitan Magistrate had directed that ₹9 lakh of the fine amount be paid to the complainant.

In the appeal, the accused argued that the complainant had misused the cheque issued as a security to ensure payment to her in lieu of sale

of a piece of land.

His counsel further said that he was not issued a legal notice before the complainant moved the court for the recovery of loan and that he was not allowed to examine a defence witness.

All arguments dismissed

Additional Sessions Judge S.K. Malhotra, however, dismissed all the arguments and maintained the conviction and the sentence of the accused.

"No evidence is led by the appellant/accused in support of his plea that he had given the cheque in question to Vinod Kumar Saxena

[complainant's brother] as a security. Appellant has miserably failed to rebut the presumption under Section 139 of the Negotiable Instruments Act that cheque in question was not issued to discharge legally recoverable debt," the judge also said.

On the argument about the denial of an opportunity to examine a defence witness, the judge said: "The trial court granted six opportunities to the appellant to summon remaining defence witnesses but steps for summoning Vinod Kumar Saxena as a defence witness were not taken by the appellant

and ultimately defence evidence was closed."

Dismissing the submission that no legal notice was issued to the accused by the complainant, Mr. Malhotra said, "Legal notice was sent through registered AD post to accused/appellant. Although the said notice was returned back with the report 'address incomplete', appellant has given the same address in his appeal, on which legal notice was sent through registered post. Therefore, a presumption can be drawn that legal notice was sent on the correct address and he deliberately did not receive it."

Tribunal grants ₹20.53 lakh to trumpeter's family

Youth died in road accident in 2018; kin had sought ₹79.5 lakh as compensation

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI
A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has awarded a compensation of ₹20.53 lakh to the family of a 23-year-old employee of a trumpet band who died in a road accident in 2018.

A car had hit the victim and one of his colleagues from behind when they were bringing back the mobile stage of the band after performing at a function in Noida. Both of them had sustained grievous injuries and died at a hospital later.

The deceased's father who worked with the same band was at the spot when

the incident happened.

Claiming that the victim was earning ₹21,000 per month at the time of the accident, his wife and her co-petitioners had sought ₹79.50 lakh as compensation.

The insurance company with which the car was insured opposed the claim petition, submitting that the petitioners had hidden material facts from the tribunal.

The car owner opted not to file any written reply to the petition, so, the court proceeded against it ex-parte.

As the petitioners could not bring on record any pap-

ers in support of the monthly income of the victim, the tribunal calculated the compensation by fixing his income at ₹7,400 per month, the minimum wage of a worker in Uttar Pradesh at the time of the accident.

Proof of income

"No sufficient proof has been brought on record by the petitioner or employer of the deceased to prove his income. In such circumstances, monthly income of the deceased shall be taken as per minimum wages applicable in Uttar Pradesh at the time of accident which was ₹7,400," presiding officer of

the tribunal Hardeep Kaur said.

Driver's negligence

"Eyewitness to the accident, the victim's father, has deposed that the accident occurred due to negligence on the part of the driver of offending vehicle. On the contrary, no evidence has been led by the respondents. The evidence by the victim's father and the filing of the chargesheet against the car driver are sufficient to prove that the accident occurred due to the negligence on the part of the car driver," Ms. Kaur said, holding that the driver was rash and negligent.

SAD, INLD stitch alliance for Haryana elections

Chautala's party releases first list of 64 candidates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Days after severing ties with the BJP in Haryana, the Shiromani Akali Dal on Wednesday announced to contest the State Assembly polls in alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal.

The SAD, which is the part of the ruling NDA at the Centre, had snapped ties with the BJP in the State after its lone MLA from Kalanwali Balkaur Singh switched sides.

SYL canal issue

The SAD had contested the 2014 Assembly elections in the State in alliance with the INLD. Their alliance had come to an end in 2017 over the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal issue.

On Thursday, Akali candidates will file their nomination papers from Kalanwali, Ratia and Guhla Cheeka.

The remaining seats, which would be contested jointly with the INLD, would be declared on October 3, said SAD vice-president Daljit Singh Cheema here on Wednesday evening.

He, however, refused to tell on how many seats the SAD will be fielding its candidates.

Nomination papers

In a statement here, SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal said party patron Parkash Singh Badal and INLD chief Om Prakash Chautala would accompany Ratia and Kalanwali candidates for the filing of nomination papers. Rajinder Singh Desujodha, who defected to the SAD from the BJP on Tuesday, will file his nomination papers for the Kalanwali seat while Kulwinder Singh Kunal will submit papers for the Ratia Assembly seat.

Ram Kumar Revarah Jagir would be the SAD-INLD candidate from Guhla Cheeka, said Mr. Cheema.

Meanwhile, the INLD de-

BSP releases second list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Bahujan Samaj Party released its second list of 27 candidates for the Haryana Assembly elections on Wednesday. The list includes two women.

Earlier, the Mayawati-led party had announced names of 41 candidates.

The polls to the 90-member Assembly will be held on October 21 and the results will be declared on October 24.

clared its first list of 64 candidates for the Haryana Assembly elections, slated for October 21.

The party's election committee met in New Delhi under the chairmanship of its national president Om Prakash Chautala and decided on the names.

12 women in INLD list

In its first list, the party has fielded 12 women candidates. Senior party leader Abhay Singh Chautala will contest from Ellenabad Assembly constituency.

Party's State unit chief B.D. Dhalia said the INLD has taken care to give representation to various sections of society and the candidates were decided accordingly.

While INLD has fielded former MLA Dilbagh Singh from Yamunanagar, its former MLA Sita Ram is in the fray from Dabwali seat, where Abhay's sister-in-law and Jannayak Janta Party's Naina Chautala is the sitting legislator.

On September 25, O.P. Chautala had announced that the party would give 33% reservation to women in the distribution of tickets.

The INLD saw a split in 2018 after there was a bitter power struggle between the two brothers – Ajay Chautala and Abhay Chautala.

(With PTI inputs)

Former Haryana Minister writes to Sonia over ticket distribution

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Senior Congress leader and former Haryana Finance Minister Ajay Singh Yadav has written to interim party president Sonia Gandhi to ex-

press his displeasure over "loyal workers" being ignored in ticket distribution.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Yadav, who unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha election earlier this year, said

he has apprised Ms. Gandhi of the matter but refused to divulge details of the letter. "I wrote to Ms. Gandhi saying that those who have worked for the party for the past five years and supported me dur-

ing the Lok Sabha election were being ignored in ticket distribution. Candidates who can win should be given tickets, not those who opposed me during the Lok Sabha election," he said.

He also tweeted to express his "disgust" over the list finalised by the screening committee headed by Madhusudan Mistry giving preference to "defectors" and "non-Congressmen". The six-time MLA

claimed to have information about the candidates finalised by the committee. He said some of the screening committee members joined the party recently and had no right to be on the panel.



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Our Company was incorporated as "Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited" on September 27, 1999, as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956 and was granted a certificate of incorporation by the Deputy Registrar of Companies, N.C.T. of Delhi and Haryana. Our Company received its certificate for commencement of business from the Deputy Registrar of Companies, N.C.T. of Delhi and Haryana on December 2, 1999. For details of changes in the registered office of our Company, see "*History and Certain Corporate Matters*" on page 156 of the red herring prospectus dated September 24, 2019, read with the corrigendum dated September 28, 2019 ("RHP" or "**Red Herring Prospectus**").

Registered Office: 11th Floor, B – 148, Statesman House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi – 110 001, Delhi, India. **Contact Person:** Suman Kalra, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Telephone: +91 11 2331 1263 / 64; E-mail: ipo@irctc.com; Website: www.irctc.com; Corporate Identity Number: U74899DL1999GO1101707

OUR PROMOTER: THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF 20,160,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDER"), FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [x] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹ [x] PER EQUITY SHARE) (THE "OFFER PRICE"), AGGREGATING TO ₹ [y] MILLION (THE "OFFER"). THE OFFER COMPRISES OF AN NET OFFER OF 20,000,000 EQUITY SHARES AND EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION OF UPTO 160,000 EQUITY SHARES. THE OFFER LESS EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS REFERRED TO AS THE NET OFFER. THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE 12.60% AND 12.50%, RESPECTIVELY OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

QIB Category: Not more than 50% of the Offer

Retail Category: Not less than 35% of the Offer

Non Institutional Investor Category: Not less than 15% of the Offer

Employee Reservation: 160,000 Equity Shares for Eligible Employees

Price Band: ₹ 315 to ₹ 320 per Equity Share of face value of ₹ 10 each.

Retail Discount and Employee Discount: ₹ 10 per Equity Share on Offer Price.

The Floor Price is 31.5 times the face value of the Equity Shares and the Cap Price is 32.0 times the face value of the Equity Shares.

Bids can be made for a minimum of 40 Equity Shares and in multiples of 40 Equity Shares thereafter.

ASBA *

Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

*Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For details, check section on ASBA below.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.



UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Bidders applying through Registered Brokers, DPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Bidders also have the options to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors. UPI may be availed only by Retail Individual Bidders. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 307 of the Red Herring Prospectus. The process is also available on the website of AI/BI and Stock Exchanges in the General Information Document. ASBA Forms can be downloaded from the websites of BSE and NSE and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. ICICI Bank Limited has been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Circular dated November 1, 2018. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number-18001201740 and Mail id-ipo.upi@npci.org.in. For the list of UPI Apps and Banks live on IPO, please refer to the link https://www.npci.org.in/upi-live-ipo.

Risks to Investors:

- The three Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 25 public issues in the past 3 years out of which 11 closed below the issue price on listing date.
- The Price/ Earnings ratio based on diluted EPS for Fiscal 2019 for the Issuer at the upper end of the Price Band is as high as 18.78.
- The average cost of acquisition per Equity Share for our Promoter is ₹ 1.25 per Equity Share. The Offer Price at the upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 320.

IPO Applicants shall ensure that the bank accounts are updated with their PAN

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME

BID/OFFER CLOSSES TODAY

In case of any revision in the Price Band or in the case of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid / Offer Period for at least three additional Working Days following such event, subject to the total Bid / Offer Period not exceeding ten Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band, and the revised Bid / Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges by issuing a press release and also by indicating the change on the websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members, and by intimation to Self-Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs"), the Sponsor Bank, and other Designated Intermediaries, as applicable. The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("SCRR"), read with Regulation 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, as amended ("**SEBI ICDR Regulations**"). The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in terms of Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") ("**QIB Portion**"). 5% of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only and the remainder of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIB Bidders, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. Further, up to 160,000 Equity Shares shall be offered for allocation and Allotment on a proportionate basis to the Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders shall only participate in the Offer through the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process by providing details of their respective bank account (including UPI ID for RIBs using UPI Mechanism) (UPI ID, RIBs and UPI Mechanism are defined in the RHP) wherein the Bid Amounts will be blocked by the SCSBs or under the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be, to the extent of respective Bid Amounts. For details, see "*Offer Procedure*" on page 307 of the RHP. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID and UPI ID (if applicable, in case RIBs) are correctly filled in the ASBA Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the ASBA Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the ASBA Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the ASBA Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the ASBA Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk. CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: For information on the main objects of our Company, investors are requested to see "*History and Certain Corporate Matters*" on page 156 of the RHP and Clause 3 of the Memorandum of Association of our Company. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, see "*Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection*" on page 376 of the RHP.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMPANY: Limited by shares.

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of our Company is ₹ 2,500,000,000 divided into 250,000,000 Equity Shares of ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of our Company is ₹ 1,600,000,000 divided into 160,000,000 Equity Shares of ₹ 10 each. For details of the capital structure, see "*Capital Structure*" on page 67 of the RHP.

NAMES OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The President of India and his nominees signed our Memorandum of Association, following which an initial allotment of one Equity Share was made to each of V. K. Aggarwal, Shanti Narian, P. V. Vasudevan, V. K. Agnihotri, D. P. Tripathi, M. Ananth and Swaroop K. Gupta (as nominees of the President of India).

LISTING: The Offered Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on BSE and NSE. Our Company has received in-principle approvals from BSE and NSE for listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to their letters dated September 6, 2019 and September 5, 2019, respectively. For the purposes of this Offer, BSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange. A signed copy of RHP has been and a copy of the Prospectus shall be delivered to the Registrar of Companies, N.C.T. of Delhi & Haryana ("RoC") in accordance with Section 28(4) of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents that will be available for inspection from the date of Red Herring Prospectus upto the Offer Closing Date, please see "*Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection*" on page 376 of the RHP.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 283 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of SEBI.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE (The Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Red Herring Prospectus has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. The investors are advised to refer to the page 287 of the Red Herring Prospectus for the full text of the Disclaimer clause of the BSE Limited.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 287 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of NSE.

GENERAL RISKS: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in this Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in this Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in this Offer have not been recommended or approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"), nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "*Risk Factors*" on page 24 of the RHP.

BJP declares remaining 12 candidates for polls

Party drops Gurugram's sitting MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The BJP on Wednesday declared the remaining 12 candidates for the Haryana Assembly elections, slated for October 21.

Dudaram Bishnoi, a former MLA and Congress leader, who had recently joined the BJP would be party's candidate from Fatehabad constituency, while Deepak Mangla, ex-principal political advisor to State Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, would fight from Palwal.

The party has dropped Gurugram's sitting MLA Umesh Agarwal, and instead decided to field Sudhir Singla.

Mr. Agarwal had recently come out openly in support of Gurugram Member of Parliament Rao Inderjit Singh, who had been apparently seeking candidature

for his daughter Arti Singh Rao from Rewari.

Mr. Agarwal had advised the party on Twitter to not ignore Mr. Rao Inderjit as it may cost the party dearly in south Haryana.

Other names

The other candidates in the second list include Surender Rana from Naraingarh, Pramod Viz from Panipat City, Nirmal Choudhary from Ganaur and Meena Narwal from Kharkhauda, Sonali Phogat from Adampur, Shashiranj Parmar from Tosham, Laxman Yadav from Kosli and Sunil Musepur from Rewari.

The BJP, which had announced that it will contest alone on all the 90 seats in the upcoming Assembly elections had earlier announced candidates for 78 seats.

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	33	23
Safdarjang	33	23
Palam	33	24

Delhi Palam Today
34°C A pleasant morning with light scattered haze would turn warm, few pocket may receive light rain.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C Day will remain warm with partly cloudy sky. Comfortable evening and night.

DELHI ☀️ Timings

THURSDAY, OCT. 03

☀️ RISE 06:15 SET 18:05
🌄 RISE 10:55 SET 21:46

FRIDAY, OCT. 04

☀️ RISE 06:15 SET 18:04
🌄 RISE 11:55 SET 22:35

SATURDAY, OCT. 05

☀️ RISE 06:16 SET 18:03
🌄 RISE 12:51 SET 23:27

Akali Dal to provide legal aid to Rajoana’s family to fight for relief

Party terms efforts to stall commutation of Rajoana’s death sentence ‘unfortunate’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Wednesday said the commutation of death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana to life term was part of a process aimed at bringing to closure the festering wounds of the Sikh community and termed efforts to stall this humanitarian gesture “unfortunate”.

Former Minister and Akali leader Maheshinder Singh Grewal said it was unfortunate that an attempt was being made by certain Congress leaders to recreate tension by opposing the move in the court of law. “The SAD is against such attempts aimed at striking at the core of peace and communal harmony and will provide all needed legal aid to the family of Rajoana to fight these insidious designs



Balwant Singh Rajoana

to reverse the humane relief granted to him,” said Mr. Grewal.

‘Release Sikh prisoners’
He said the Union government should release all other Sikh prisoners who are still languishing in jail after serving their full sentences. “The Punjab government should do likewise for prisoners languishing in State jails,” he said.

Mr. Grewal said the Akali Dal and the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) have always opposed the death penalty as a matter of principle and continue to do so.

“We have waged a long struggle to create consensus on this issue and this included approaching the Union government and the President on several occasions under the leadership of Parkash Singh Badal,” he said.

The decision to release eight Sikh prisoners who had already completed their sentence and the commutation of Rajoana’s death sentence were the fallout of the concerted efforts of the Akali Dal and the SGPC, Mr. Grewal claimed.

He said the Congress leader opposing the commutation of the death penalty was part of the Vidhan Sabha

when the House moved a resolution appealing to the Centre in this regard.

The statement came a day after Gurkirat Singh Kotli, a Punjab MLA and grandson of slain former Chief Minister Beant Singh, said his family would move the Supreme Court against the Centre’s decision to commute the death sentence of Rajoana.

Ludhiana MP Ravneet Singh Bittu, who too is a grandson of the slain leader, also criticised the Centre’s decision. “How is a terrorist of Kashmir different from a terrorist of Punjab? How can Rajoana who hasn’t applied for pardon himself, doesn’t believe in the law of land and wants to spread terror repeatedly be released by Modi Govt? Dual Face of Modi,” Mr. Bittu had tweeted. (With PTI inputs)

Plastic ban comes into force in Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

Ban on single-use plastic came into effect in all urban areas of Odisha on Wednesday on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Manufacture, sale, trade, import, storage, transportation and distribution of single-use plastics are prohibited as per a notification issued by Odisha Forest and Environment Department on September 30, an official said.

The ban is imposed on polythene carry bags of any shape, thickness and size (excluding compostable), Polyethylene Terephthalate (Pet/Pete) bottles of less than 200 ml capacity, he said.

The vendors will not be allowed to use polythene sheets of less than 50-micron thickness for storing, transporting, dispensing or packaging of any article or commodity.

29 held for torturing 6 men on witchcraft suspicion

Victims blamed for diseases and deaths in their village

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

As many as 29 residents, including 22 women, of Gopapur village under Khallikote police station in Odisha’s Ganjam district were arrested on Tuesday night for their alleged involvement in torture of six persons, aged between 55 and 65 years, over suspicion of witchcraft.

The arrested persons claimed the victims were witchcraft practitioners who were responsible for diseases and deaths in Gopapur.

“On the night of September 30, eight teeth of each victim were uprooted and they were forced to eat human excreta. They were also beaten up and forcibly restrained at a community hall in the village,” said Sub-Divisional Police Officer Utkal Keshari Dash.

On October 1, after receiving information about the in-

Police managed to rescue the victims and admitted them to a hospital in Berhampur

SATYARANJAN PRADHAN
Inspector, Khallikote police station

cident, a police team reached the village to rescue the victims but faced stiff opposition from the villagers who threw chilli powder and stones at them.

“The police managed to rescue the victims and admitted them to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. Later, the accused persons were rounded up and arrested,” said inspector-in-charge of Khallikote police station Satyaranjan Pradhan.

Tensions gripped Gopapur two weeks ago after some villagers suddenly fell sick and three of them died. The villagers alleged some

sorcery practitioners were causing the ailments and deaths. On September 28, more persons fell ill and the villagers started collecting money to call up a sorcerer to identify the alleged witchcraft practitioners. The same day, the Ganjam district administration and the police tried to intervene and make the villagers see reason.

Medical team
On September 30, a medical team from MKCG Medical College and Hospital reached the village to take blood samples of the inhabitants for tests and treat the sick. But these measures failed to convince the villagers who rounded up the six victims, based on details given by the sorcerer, and tortured them. The victims were all men in their late 50s and 60s.

‘Mo Sarkar’ initiative launched

Bid to provide service with dignity to people of Odisha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to Wednesday launched his government’s new governance initiative ‘Mo Sarkar’ on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti when different parties organised padayatras and other events to derive political mileage on the occasion.

Mr. Patnaik called eight persons in seven districts over phone from his residence to collect their feedback about treatment at government hospitals and service at police stations. The phone numbers of these people, who had earlier come to hospitals and police stations, were collected randomly from the ‘Mo Sarkar’ portal.

Logo released

Later Mr. Patnaik went to the Capital Hospital and Saheed Nagar Police Station in the city and released the logo and preamble of the ‘Mo Sarkar’



Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

programme. He had announced this new programme on the occasion of Independence Day this year.

The ‘Mo Sarkar’ was launched at all police stations across the State along with 21 district headquarters hospitals and three government-run medical college hospitals at Cuttack, Berhampur and Sambalpur. The programme will be effective at all the 30 district headquarters hospitals of the State by October 30.

The objective of the ‘Mo

Sarkar’ programme is to provide service with dignity to people who are coming to government offices for different purposes. The phone numbers of people who are coming to government offices will be collected randomly with the purpose to improve the governance system by collecting feedback on behaviour and professionalism of government officers.

Feedback collection

The Chief Minister, Departmental Minister, Director General of Police (in case of police stations) and Departmental Minister, Secretary and Director (in case of hospitals) will call on random numbers to collect feedback.

The employees will be ranked as good or bad on the basis of the feedback and those with good rank will get out-of-turn promotion and action will be taken against employees with bad rank.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEGUSARAI (BIHAR)

The BJP-led NDA in Bihar, which has been ruling the State for about a decade and a half, owes an apology to the people of Patna who have been reeling from inundation following heavy rain, Union Minister Giriraj Singh said here on Wednesday.

The firebrand BJP leader also attacked the Nitish Kumar government saying an alert had been sounded ahead of the downturn but it failed to ensure attentiveness in the administrative machinery, which could have lessened the severity of the crisis.

“It is not a failure of the people of Patna. It is our failure. Residents of the city have reposed so much trust in the NDA, especially the BJP. We owe an apology to them,” said Mr. Singh, the Lok Sabha MP from Begusarai.

A former member of the



Residents of Rajendra Nagar wading through waterlogged roads with the help of a makeshift boat, after collecting relief materials in Patna on Wednesday. ■RANJEET KUMAR

Nitish Cabinet, the Union Minister is a known detractor of the Chief Minister and his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi, a senior BJP leader.

“The government issued an alert asking the people to

be on guard. But was it on guard itself? Had it been so, people would not have been compelled to suffer so much of misery,” he said.

The slow pace of relief operations has fuelled anger

among the people affected by a flood-like situation, particularly in Patna, parts of which have been under water for days. On Wednesday, water was being pumped out of the inundated areas in the

State capital. Mr. Kumar urged people to “have patience”, but lost his cool on Tuesday night in the face of persistent queries from a journalist about the waterlogged streets of Patna. The Chief Minister shot back at the scribe, asking him whether there was similar outrage when Mumbai was deluged or when floods disrupted life in the U.S.

17 lakh people affected
A State government statement put the total number of people affected by the rains at 17.09 lakh. The districts hit by the rainfall were Patna, Bhojpur, Bhagalpur, Khagaria, Samastipur, Begusarai, Lakhisarai and Vaishali, situated on either side of the Ganga. According to the State disaster management department, 42 deaths have been reported from areas affected by rainfall, though a district-wise break-up was not yet available.

Manual scavenging still a grim reality in M.P.’s Shivpuri

As PM declares nation 100% ODF, sanitation workers continue to clean sewers without protective gear

SIDHARTH YADAV
SHIVPURI

In his childhood, Sachin Valmik (name changed) wanted to become a teacher when he grew up. But upon dropping out of school, the prospect of working as a safai karamchari, given his caste, seemed more real, and pulled him into what his forefathers did for years.

Despite a law banning manual scavenging, he continues to remove human excreta from an open drain behind the PWD quarters here every morning, along with 15 other men, in shifts.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the country 100% open-defecation free (ODF) in Gujarat on Wednesday, sanitation workers employed by the Shivpuri Municipal Council and the Public Health Engineering Department continued to engage in manual scavenging and cleaning sewers without protective gear.

Adults in Mr. Valmik’s family – wife, mother, brother,



A sanitation worker cleaning a drain behind the PWD quarters in Shivpuri. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sister and brother-in-law – are all safai karamcharis. And the predicament of his caste, Mehtar, a Dalit community, has taken away any semblance of hope he had for his children as well.

Caste bias

“We recently pulled out my eldest son, 14, from school. He was not allowed to sit on benches with upper caste children,” said Mr. Valmik,

42. “What use is education when society compels us to take up only one kind of work? *Ghoom phir ke yeh hi kaam karte hain* (We end up doing this work).”

All sanitation workers in the city are Mehtars, with 15 men tasked with clearing drains clogged with human excreta, carcasses and polythene bags and 35-40 women sprucing up the streets. Engaging a sanitation

worker for manually cleaning, carrying or disposing of human excreta is a punishable offence under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, which mandates their identification and rehabilitation by the government. Furthermore, The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, under Section 3 (j) prohibits manual scavenging.

Of the six sewer deaths in Madhya Pradesh since 1993, four occurred in Shivpuri – two in 2014 and two in 2016 – according to the State Directorate of Urban Administration and Development.

Safety concerns

Still, safai karamcharis working in sewers and septic tanks in the district have not been provided with safety equipment, at least since 2013, which the government is mandated to provide, the PHE Department replied to a Right to Information query.

This is despite repeated directions to the contractor of a new sewer line here to provide them.

“I don’t let my boys go down 20-30 feet. When Indore and Gwalior civic bodies have machines for cleaning sewers, why can’t we have them,” asked a supervisor, requesting anonymity. “In the older sewer line, things were easier as it was just six-seven feet deep.”

Unaware of manual scavenging in the city, Deputy Collector Pallavi Vaidya said, “As of now, we are not aware of manual scavenging happening anywhere in Shivpuri. Anyway, we don’t encourage or support it.”

On August 19, the State Human Rights Commission, responding to a complaint by an activist, had asked the authorities to furnish a report on manual scavenging in the district within two weeks. A district official told *The Hindu* that the report had been submitted to the “department concerned”.

Meghalaya NGO objects to ‘overloaded’ Bhutan trucks

‘Damaging already damaged roads’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

After driving into revised traffic rules in Assam, trucks from Bhutan carrying boulders and stone chips to Bangladesh via the northeast have now run into an NGO in Meghalaya.

The Anti-Corruption and Human Development Organisation has urged the authorities in Meghalaya to ban the plying of the “overloaded” trucks from Bhutan as their movement has “damaged the already-damaged roads in the State”.

Export via northeast

Bhutan exports stones to Bangladesh using the land route through Assam and Meghalaya as per the South Asian Free Trade Area agreement among SAARC countries allowing a third country to be used as transit. SAARC expands to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and its

members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Each Bhutan truck is supposed to carry 18 tonnes of load from Gelephu on the India-Bhutan border to Dalu on Meghalaya-Bangladesh border covering 321 km. But Bhutanese traders have admitted the trucks carry “a bit more” to offset the “extra expenditure” on transportation.

The Meghalaya organisation based at Chibinang in West Garo Hills district, said that convoys of overloaded Bhutan trucks have been causing more damage to an arterial road that was already in a dilapidated state.

Ishraful Hoque, the organisation’s president said the road to the check point on the border with Bangladesh had been repaired some time ago, but have begun peeling off because of the trucks that are allegedly driven at a high speed.

Call for mass protests against Citizenship Bill

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM
IMPHAL

Civil society groups and social activists in Manipur have given a call for a mass agitation against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill on Thursday.

Yumnamcha Dilipkumar, convener of Manipur People Against Citizenship Amendment Bill (MAN-PAC), told reporters on Wednesday that six students’ organisations in the State have extended their support to the agitation.

People in Manipur have been opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, which, they claim, is against the interest of the indigenous people of the region. The repeated assurances given to the people of the Northeast by Central leaders have failed to comfort them. There is also disappointment over the President not yet giving assent to the Manipur People’s Protection Bill, 2018.

Cement firm to use plastic waste for fuel in Meghalaya

The State began battling plastic waste in 2018 by building the first road with it in Nongstoin town

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya government has signed an agreement with a major cement firm for buying plastic waste to be used as fuel instead of coal for producing clinkers.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma made this announcement during an official programme to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the State capital

Shillong on Wednesday.

“We have had an understanding with one of the cement companies which will use the plastic as raw material to burn and produce energy from it. It will be a process very much within the control limits of the pollution board,” Mr Sangma said.

At least half a dozen companies manufacture cement in Meghalaya, which has al-

most 10% of India’s limestone reserves. These companies rely largely on coal, also mined in the State, for fuel.

Officials said the government would have a similar agreement with the other cement companies if they agree to buy plastic waste.

Pollution monitoring

The Chief Minister said the cement firm that offered to buy the plastic waste had its

factory retrofitted to consume plastics in place of coal. The State Pollution Control Board would be monitoring the ambient air quality after the plastics are burned so that no harmful emission takes place, he added.

A State government spokesperson said Meghalaya had begun battling plastic in 2018 by building the first plastic road in Nongstoin

town followed by another in Tura town this year.

A few months ago, Mr Sangma introduced the Meghalaya Plastic Challenge toward plastic waste management by involving local organisations and traditional tribal bodies.

The movement saw village-level volunteers and rag-pickers collect 17 tonnes of plastic waste from across the State.

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

Tender Notice NIT. No. 21/CW/DO/T.No.30 & 31/2019-20 Dt. 01.10.2019
For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited under **“Two Cover System”** for the following work from Civil/Electrical Class-I State level registered in State/Central or Quasi Government Organisations having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 PM on **06.11.2019** and the same will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. value of work Rs. in lakhs	EMD in Rs.
1	Providing Street Light arrangements in SIPCOT Industrial Complexes at Gummidipoondi and Cheyyar.	546.00	2,83,000/-
2	Providing Street Light arrangements and Jungle clearance in SIPCOT Industrial Complex/Growth Centres/Park at Perundurai, Hosur, Siruseri, Ranipet and Gummidipoondi.	733.00	3,77,000/-

The tender Schedule can also be Downloaded at free of cost from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.sipcot.in
DIPR/ 3471/TENDER/2019

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SIPCOT, Chennai - 8.



Telangana Chief Minister to meet Modi tomorrow

HYDERABAD
Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu will leave for New Delhi on Thursday evening for a scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 11.30 a.m. the next day. This will be their first meeting after Mr. Rao began his second term as Chief Minister in December last. Sources said Mr. Rao is likely to raise several issues, particularly the impact of economic slowdown on the State's finances, and might seek Central assistance.

After Maradu, SC set to hear resort violation case

KOCHI
After the Maradu illegal apartments case in Kerala, the case of Coastal Regulation Zone violations by Kapico Kerala Resorts in Vembanad Lake will come up before the Supreme Court shortly. An SC Bench has listed the Special Leave Petition of the resort group for December 3. The Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority had rejected the application of the resort group as it was found that the resort was built in the 'No Development Zone' in an island in Vembanad.

Inter-State gang member from Karnataka held

BERHAMPUR
Sikandar Ali, 38, a member of an inter-State gang from Karnataka allegedly involved in robberies posing as police officials in different parts of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, was arrested in Berhampur. A team from the Berhampur police is set to travel to Bidar district of Karnataka to nab the other eight members of the gang, who have been identified. The gang members used to pose as police officers or CBI staff and ask people to remove gold ornaments and later pocket them.

India hails U.K. verdict on former Nizam

Court rejects Pakistan claim, says descendants of Osman Ali Khan are entitled to £35 million fund

SUHASINI HAIDAR
SERISH NANISETTI
NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

The government claimed victory on Wednesday after a U.K. High Court ruled in favour of India and the descendants of the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad, Osman Ali Khan.

Rejecting Pakistan's claim in the case that dates back to 1948, the High Court of England and Wales ruled in favour of India and the Nizam's descendants — now mostly based in Turkey and the U.K. — granting them access to a £35 million fund (worth approximately ₹306 crore).

"Nizam VII was beneficially entitled to the Fund and those claiming in right of Nizam VII — the Princes and India — are entitled to have the sum paid out to their order. I will leave it to the parties to frame an appropriate form of order for my approval," ruled Justice Marcus Smith in his order. "The question be-

fore the court is ...the short-ly-stated one of whether it is Pakistan or the late Nizam VII who was in 1948, entitled to the fund."

The Ministry of External Affairs hailed the order that "upheld India's claim", and which also rejected Pakistan's contention that the Nizam had transferred the funds as a gift or as payment for a shipment of arms. "The Court has issued a wide-ranging judgment today after analysing documentation going back more than 70 years and embracing the law of constructive and resulting trusts, unjust enrichment, foreign act of state, illegality and limitation of actions," an MEA statement said.

71-year-old case

The case relates to the transfer of £1,007,940 (now worth £35 million) and nine shillings by the Nizam's envoy and foreign minister in London, Moin Nawaz Jung, on September 16, 1948 to Pakis-



Osman Ali Khan, the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad.

• THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

tan when the Indian Army's tanks were closing in on Hyderabad from all directions. Moin Nawaz Jung transferred the money to the account of Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola, the High Commissioner of Pakistan in London, which the bank processed on September 20, 1948. However, Hyderabad's armed forces had already surrendered to General J.N. Chowdhury on September 17, 1948 after a military operation known as "Operation Polo."

Within days of surrender, the Nizam, Osman Ali Khan, sent a message to the National Westminster Bank demanding that the money be transferred back to his account. Pakistan also claimed the money.

The case has seen many twists and turns over the years. In 1965, the Nizam assigned to the President of India, his claim to the fund, and joined forces with India to fight for his claim on the money. He died in 1967.

The Nizam's descendants, Prince Mukarram Jah — the titular eighth Nizam of Hyderabad — and his younger brother Muffakam Jah, carried on the legal battle.

It is unclear how the fund will be divided, however.

Pakistan said the judgment had not taken into account the "historical context" that led to the Nizam transferring the money to Pakistan's High Commissioner in London, in order to protect his state from "In-

dian invasion." "Pakistan is closely examining all aspects of the detailed judgment and will take further action in light of legal advice received," said the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The present case was instituted by Pakistan in 2013 against the bank to transfer the money to Pakistan.

Pakistan's claim rested on the premise that the money was transferred for the weapons supplied by the country to the Nizam. The court relied on the testimony of Prince Muffakam Jah, documentary evidence as well as public documents produced by India and Pakistan.

"Our client was still a child when the dispute first arose and is now in his 80s. It is a great relief to see this dispute finally resolved in his lifetime," Paul Hewitt, partner in Withers LLP, who has acted for the VIII Nizam since Pakistan issued proceedings in 2013, was quoted as saying by PTI.

TDP MLA put under house arrest

Party leaders condemn detention

STAFF REPORTER
SRIRAKULAM

Tension prevailed at the Tekkali police station in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam district for more than six hours in the early hours of Wednesday with Telugu Desam Party MLA K. Atchannaidu staging a protest over the arrest of party leaders who had agitated for the continuation of pensions for eligible persons.

Mr. Atchannaidu, carrying a portrait of Gandhiji, alleged that the YSR Congress Party government was not following democratic principles even on his 150th birth anniversary.

The Tekkali MLA sought immediate justice to pensioners and TDP leaders of Chakipalli village which falls under his constituency.

Sensing that the situation was slipping out of hands, police forcibly shifted the MLA to his residence at Nim-



Tekkali MLA K. Atchannaidu was detained while staging a protest in Srikakulam.

mada village of Kotabommali mandal, and placed him under house arrest.

Superintendent of Police R. N. Ammireddy sent a report to the government over the series of incidents.

Several TDP leaders, including Srikakulam MP Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu and former MLAs Gunda Lakshmi Devi and Kuna Ravikumar, condemned the arrest of Mr. Atchannaidu.

Centre calls for consensus to revoke night traffic ban

All-party team meets Minister to discuss Bandipur issue

E.M. MANOJ
KALPETTA

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has said that building a consensus between Kerala and Karnataka is the possible solution to revoke the night traffic ban on the Bandipur tiger reserve, part of the Kozhikode-Kollegal NH 766.

While discussing the issue with an all-party delegation, including the members of the National Highway 766 Transport Protection Action

Committee, at the office of the Minister in Delhi on Wednesday, Mr. Javadekar said that if the governments could build a consensus and convey it to the Supreme Court, when it hears the case next time, it would help to lift the ban.

K.K. Vasudevan, convenor, of the committee shared this information with *The Hindu* after attending the discussion.

The Supreme Court had recently directed the Centre to respond to its suggestion

on developing an alternative route through Bandipur.

The delegates said an alternative road would not be an option for the NH and it would double the hardships of the public in both the States. Moreover, a huge area of forest land would have to be destroyed to construct such an alternative route, they added.

However Mr. Javdekar said the issue should be discussed with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.

Kerala seeks CBI probe in TTP case

Chennithala and Chandy are among top UDF leaders facing corruption charges

G. ANAND
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Top Opposition leaders in Kerala are increasingly facing the prospect of prosecution in various cases in the run-up to the bypolls in five Assembly constituencies in the State.

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala and former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, both star campaigners of the United Democratic Front (UDF), seem to top the list.

The State government has invited the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the leaders on the charge of



Oommen Chandy, left, and Ramesh Chennithala

corruption in connection with an unsuccessful and costly bid to set up an effluent treatment plant at the State-run Travancore Titanium Products (TTP) here in 2006.

"The government had issued the notification to the CBI to probe the TTP case this week. The State was awaiting the response of the Central agency," an official privy to the process said.

Indian Union Muslim League (IUMU) leader and then Industries Minister V.K. Ebrahim Kunju is also an accused in the 13-year-old case. The government had maintained that it was constrained to seek CBI intervention because the case had international ramifications.

Investigators required information from Interpol

about the role of a foreign firm and a shady middleman, who has since disappeared from the public realm. The prosecution case was that the accused had ignored cautionary reports submitted by various agencies, including the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (PCB), and pushed ahead with a "financially unviable scheme" by awarding the lucrative contract without tender to a foreign firm represented by an Indian consultancy company they "favoured."

The UDF leaders denied any wrongdoing.

Yediyurappa govt. puts on hold Ballari bifurcation plan

Another meeting likely to be held after bypolls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has deferred the decision on bifurcation of Ballari district, as elected legislators from the district strongly opposed the proposal at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa here on Wednesday.

The government is likely to hold another round of meetings on the matter with legislators and MPs and intellectuals of the district after the bypolls to be held on December 5.

The postponement is considered a major setback to former Minister Anand Singh, a disqualified Congress MLA, who took the lead on the demand for the bifurcation of the district. He is expected to be fielded as a BJP candidate from Vi-



B.S. Yediyurappa

jayanagar constituency in the bypolls.

Following the bandh call opposing the bifurcation of Ballari district evoking a good response on Tuesday, Mr. Yediyurappa on Wednesday chaired a meeting with legislators of three districts (Ballari, Koppal, and Davangere) to seek their opinion on the proposal to bifurcate

the district. Except Mr. Anand Singh, all BJP and Congress legislators opposed the proposal to divide the district.

Health and Family Welfare Minister B. Sriramulu and Revenue Minister R. Ashok briefed the media on the outcome of the meeting. The meeting remained inconclusive and Mr. Yediyurappa felt the necessity of a wider consultation on the matter to arrive at a consensus, Mr. Sriramulu said.

Meanwhile, Hosapete, the proposed headquarters for the new Vijayanagar district, continued to see pro-bifurcation demonstrations. The agitators demanded the formation of the new district and said that the government should not go back on its promise by buckling under pressure.

One with nature



Mud is good: Youngsters participating in a dirt track race organised as part of the Raita Dasara programme by the Shivamogga City Corporation in Karnataka on Wednesday. • VAIDYA

Tribals revive tradition to ward off jumbos

They have been living in tarpaulin sheds since floods devastated Malappuram

STAFF REPORTER
MALAPPURAM

Necessity is the mother of not only invention but also revival of traditional knowledge. The tribespeople of Vaniyampuzha colony in Pothukal grama panchayat near Nilambur here in Kerala were forced to fall back on their traditional knowledge to ward off wild elephants from their makeshift shelters in flood hit Malappuram of Kerala.

Thirty-seven Adivasi families of Vaniyampuzha have been living in tarpaulin sheds on a hillock in the forest since the floods devastated their houses on August 8.

And when wild elephants

came calling, the tribal community turned to a traditional instrument to keep the herd away.

Made of bamboo, the *thatta* produces loud sounds to warn off elephants.

"Our forefathers have used this wooden equipment. Now that we are forced to live in a totally unsafe environment in the jungle, we found no other way but to fall back on our traditional knowledge to parry elephants," said S. Gireesh, a youngster from the colony.

The equipment made of bamboo pieces looks like a crude musical instrument. But the tak-tak sound it generates is loud enough to



A Vaniyampuzha resident displaying the bamboo instrument. • SAKHER HUSSAIN

cover a large area.

The Adivasis prefer to live in consonance with nature. Therefore, driving the

elephants away is not their agenda. But they use equipment to alert the elephants about their presence in the area. "When we make sounds with this instrument, our intention is only to alert elephants that we are living here, and to stay away from us," said Mr. Gireesh.

Depending on its use, the *thatta* is made in difference sizes with a large one sounding very much like firecrackers going off.

The tribal people have installed some large *thatta* near their farms to drive away wild animals. "Our children now watch this with curiosity. For them, it is a new toy," said Kumaran a member of the group.

Andhra Pradesh CM launches Village Secretariat system

Bribes will soon be a thing of the past, says Jagan Reddy

STAFF REPORTER
KARAPA

Opening a new chapter in public administration by inaugurating the Village Secretariat system at Karapa village near Kakinada on Wednesday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said it was a happy coincidence that the launch coincided with the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who firmly believed that the country would perish if development eluded villages.

Andhra Pradesh became a role model for other States by setting up village and ward secretariats. These institutions would act as a

bridge between the government and the people by rendering over 500 types of services at their doorstep, Mr. Reddy said, pointing out that they were a major step towards his poll promise of decentralisation of administration.

'Record effort'

The village and ward secretariats employed over 4.50 lakh people in a record time of four months of the YSR Congress (YSRC) coming to power, the CM said, observing that the idea of establishing them struck when he found during his 'Praja Sanakalpa Yatra' that there was a yawning gap between the

promises made by the previous government and their delivery.

The CM said people had to bribe the officials to get ration cards or pensions or to avail any welfare scheme. All that would be a thing of the past when the village and ward secretariats start functioning in a full-fledged manner from January 1, 2020, he said.

Mr. Reddy said the Village Secretariats would showcase government programmes and make pictorial representations of government schools and hospitals under the caption 'then and now' to show how reforms had changed their functioning.

VSSC asks job seekers to be wary of scams in ISRO name

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) at Thumba, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) leading facility here, has cautioned job seekers against falling prey to scams promising employment at ISRO units for a fee.

The VSSC formally issued a warning after instances of foul play surrounding job opportunities reportedly came to light, a senior official at the ISRO facility said.

"It has come to the notice of the centre that fraudulent communications are being sent from various domains offering appointments/job opportunities in ISRO and calling for walk-in interviews. It is reported that the miscreants have even taken money from the aspirant public on the pretext that they will get an appointment in ISRO," the VSSC told job seekers in a notice.

ISRO has not authorised any individual or firm to act on its behalf in matters related to recruitment. Recruitment to Department of Space (DOS)/ISRO is conducted through "formal channels only" and in a transparent manner, it said. Job aspirants have been instructed to be wary of responding to communications promising jobs in ISRO.

The space agency has, wherever job-related complaints have arisen, taken action by registering cases under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the IT Act, VSSC further clarified.

Hirings are managed either by ISRO Centralised Recruitment Board (ICRB) based at the ISRO HQ in Bengaluru or by the ISRO centres and units concerned.

NEARBY



Burglars strike at Tiruchi jewellery showroom

TIRUCHI

Burglars wearing fancy children's masks drilled a hole on the wall and decamped with gold and diamond ornaments from a branch of Lalithaa Jewellery near the Chatham Bus Stand in Tiruchi on Wednesday. The company put the value of the ornaments at ₹13 crore. The heist came to light when employees opened the showroom on Wednesday morning.

College suspends NEET case suspect

DHARMAPURI

The Government Dharmapuri Medical College in Tamil Nadu has suspended Mohammad Irfan, a first-year MBBS student who is under investigation for suspected impersonation in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). Irfan was among the 100 students admitted to the college through the NEET this year. He went on medical leave on September 8 and surrendered before a court in Salem on Tuesday.

M.P. honey-trap case: SIT chief replaced again

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has removed Sanjeev Shami as chief of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to probe the honey-trap and black-mailing racket busted in the State last month. Mr. Shami has been replaced by Special DGP Rajendra Kumar, according to an order by the State Home department on Tuesday. PTI

Graft charge: High Court steps in for CBI probe

NEW DELHI

The Chhattisgarh government's decision to withdraw consent for a CBI probe led a railways employee to move the High Court seeking a direction to the agency to probe his allegation that an official had demanded a bribe to clear him in a test. G. Suresh, a loco inspector registered an FIR with the CBI against Senior Divisional Engineer V.V. Subba Rao and Chief Loco Inspector Ravi Kumar. The HC on September 16 directed the CBI to book a case if there was any substance in the allegations. An FIR was lodged on September 30.

Excess rain washes out IMD's methods

New dynamical model failed to forecast August-September deluge

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

While India this year may have recorded its highest monsoon rain in 25 years, an analysis suggests that new monsoon models, called the Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecast Model (CFS), deployed by the IMD over the last decade don't do better than the older ones in long-range forecasting.

This year, India ended up with 10% more monsoon rain (or 110% of the long period average or LPA of 887 mm) than usual. However, none of the agency's models tuned to capture long term forecast trends warned of this. The IMD's (India Meteorological Department) workhorse statistical models said in its last update on August 1 that All India Monsoon Rainfall (June-September)

would be 96% of the LPA. The CFS model in April said the monsoon would be 94% of the normal and updated to 99% in August.

Accurate in short term


However, the IMD models that forecast two weeks ahead (called extended range prediction) did warn of increased monsoon activity, as did short-term forecast models (that gauge weather three days ahead). However, the Department doesn't use these to update estimates of the anticipated all India figures. The newer models were developed as part of a ₹1200 crore 'Monsoon mission' that has been underway for over a decade and were meant to improve both short term and long term forecasts.

A perusal by *The Hindu* of

Rain or shine?

The year-wise predictions made by the IMD's statistical and dynamical (CFS) models, and the actual rainfall:

Year	Statistical model (% of LPA)	CFS model (% of LPA)	Actual rainfall (% LPA)
2012	99	104	93
2013	98	104	106
2014	95	96	88
2015	88	86	86
2016	106	112	97
2017	98	100	95
2018	97	97	91
2019	96	97	110



LPA refers to the Long Period Average of all India monsoon rainfall, which is 889 mm. The figures each year refer to the most updated long-range forecast issued by IMD every year.

the forecast abilities of the CFS model, used since 2012, show that only twice – in 2013 and 2015 – did the CFS model get the monsoon right. It predicted 104% and 86% of the LPA and India

ended up with 106% and 86% respectively. Like the CFS, the older statistical model also got 2015 right – when India saw one of its severest droughts. It also got 2017 right. The statistical

model said the country would get 98% and India ended up with 95%. The CFS said 100%.


Highest since 1983

On August 1, the IMD said August and September rains would be “100% of what's normal” for the two months with an error window of ±8%. The country ended up with 130%, the highest since 1983.

IMD scientists admitted that the dynamical models were incapable of factoring in changes in the Indian Ocean a month or two in advance. “Anomalies in the Indian Ocean develop rapidly,” said D.S. Pai, who heads the IMD's climate forecasting division. “The excess rain in September was attributable to the low pressure systems that suddenly developed. This can't be anticipated beyond a few days,” he added.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Kerala, south interior Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Rajasthan and Bihar.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3.1	27.8	24.2	Kozhikode		34.4	25.6
Ahmedabad	23.2			Kurnool			24.4
Aizawl				Lucknow	4.0		23.8
Allahabad		24.7		Madurai			25.0
Bengaluru	22.4	18.6		Mangaluru			23.4
Bhopal	21.3	21.0		Mumbai	32.1	24.8	
Bhubaneswar	2.3	33.0	24.0	Mysuru	4.6		20.8
Chandigarh		21.0		New Delhi		33.5	23.4
Chennai	1.2	25.8		Patna		31.5	23.3
Coimbatore		23.2		Port Blair			24.4
Dehradun	0.2	20.7		Puducherry	0.8		24.2
Gangtok	30.8	20.8	15.6	Pune		30.9	19.5
Goa		32.3	25.0	Raipur		31.6	24.3
Guwahati	2.0		23.8	Ranchi		31.8	20.7
Hubballi		29.0	21.0	Shillong	2.8	20.0	14.1
Hyderabad		22.8		Shimla		8.4	21.6
Imphal	24.0		19.6	Srinagar			10.9
Jaipur			23.0	Thiruvananthapuram			32.4
Kochi	0.2	31.6	24.6	Tiruchi	6.1		25.0
Kohima	3.0	21.6	14.5	Vijayawada		00.0	00.0
Kolkata			26.1	Visakhapatnam		32.2	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	114	136	110	107	102		
Bengaluru	04	58	73	40	51		In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Howrah, West Bengal recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 180 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Guwahati, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 26
Chennai	07	17	18	114			
Delhi	06	77	17	75	182		
Hyderabad	03	22	19	77	74		
Kolkata	18	47	15	142	120		
Lucknow	03	39	50	56			
Mumbai	13	25	12	38	103		
Pune	86	08	67	36	36		
Visakhapatnam	17	53	42	42	89		

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

President to honour service to seniors

T.N. govt. among those to be awarded

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

A Madhya Pradesh municipality, which runs a daycare centre for senior citizens, an NGO in Kerala that has sensitised thousands to the need for taking care of elders and the State of Tamil Nadu, which has established maintenance tribunals in each sub-division, are among those to be honoured on Thursday for their service to senior citizens, government sources said.

Vayoshreshtha Samman, the annual national award of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, will be given away to 15 individuals and organisations by President Ram Nath Kovind. The award distribution is one of the Ministry's events to mark the International Day of Older Persons, which fell on Tuesday.

Tamil Nadu is expected to be given the award for the best State in implementing the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, and providing services to senior citizens. According to the cita-

tion, the State has set up maintenance tribunals under the Act in each sub-division, but half of the cases are resolved through conciliation.

The municipal council of Unhel, in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh, will receive the award for the best urban local body. It provides medical services, income generation schemes and pension to seniors. It has also opened a daycare centre, Anand Ghar, fitted with recreation facilities.

Gandhibhavan International Trust, a non-profit in Kollam, Kerala, is set to be honoured for providing care to 1,400 needy people, including 350 senior citizens, and for conducting awareness programmes for the youth. So far, 60,000 people have attended the programme.

Among the individuals are Hardev Singh, a senior citizen sportsperson, Ishwarchandra Chintamani, a 93-year-old Kannada writer, freedom fighter Chhaju Ram Sharma, 87, and Padma Shri awardee Eli Ahmed.

The Mahatma's home in Kolkata opened to public

State govt. converts house into Gandhi Bhawan Museum

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Hyderi Manzil, a single-storied house in north Kolkata where Mahatma Gandhi spent August 15, 1947 and a site that has emerged as a symbol of his fight against communalism was on Wednesday thrown open to the public as a full-fledged museum, depicting various aspects of the life of the Father of the Nation.

The Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal has converted Hyderi Manzil into the Gandhi Bhawan Museum. It bears the most prominent footprints of Gandhiji in Kolkata, a place where he stayed for three weeks – August 12 to September 6, 1947 – when the city was facing communal riots.

Spread over 3500 sq ft, the permanent exhibition – Mohandas to Mahatma – has 41 story-line display panels where the life of Gandhi is depicted in three sections.

The museum was thrown open to the public during



History unravels: The newly-renovated Gandhi Bhawan Museum in north Kolkata on Wednesday. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

the day to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the apostle of non-violence.

Letters, photographs, display panels and even graphics depicting different facets of Gandhi's life are on display.

The first section of the museum deals with Gandhi's education and early life in South Africa. This is followed by another section that deals with his return to India in 1914, historic events like his stay at Champaran, the Chauri Chaura incident of 1922 and the Bombay

Riots of 1921. The last section deals with his stay at the Hyderi Manzil where he spent more than three weeks in 1947 fasting for communal peace and amity.

A room where the personal belongings, including a few weapons that the rioting mobs surrendered before him have also been displayed afresh.

Referring to the upgrade, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said her government has “completely renovated” the building and set up a museum there.

Inter-State portability for ration cards launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

An inter-State portability for ration cards has been launched for Rajasthan and Haryana to facilitate the distribution of foodgrains to beneficiaries of the National Food Security scheme.

The unorganised sector, migrating from one State to the other in search of work, will mainly benefit from the scheme. While the portability had been launched on Tuesday, the Centre would implement it all over the country soon, officials said.

BusinessLine

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

change is the greatest catalyst

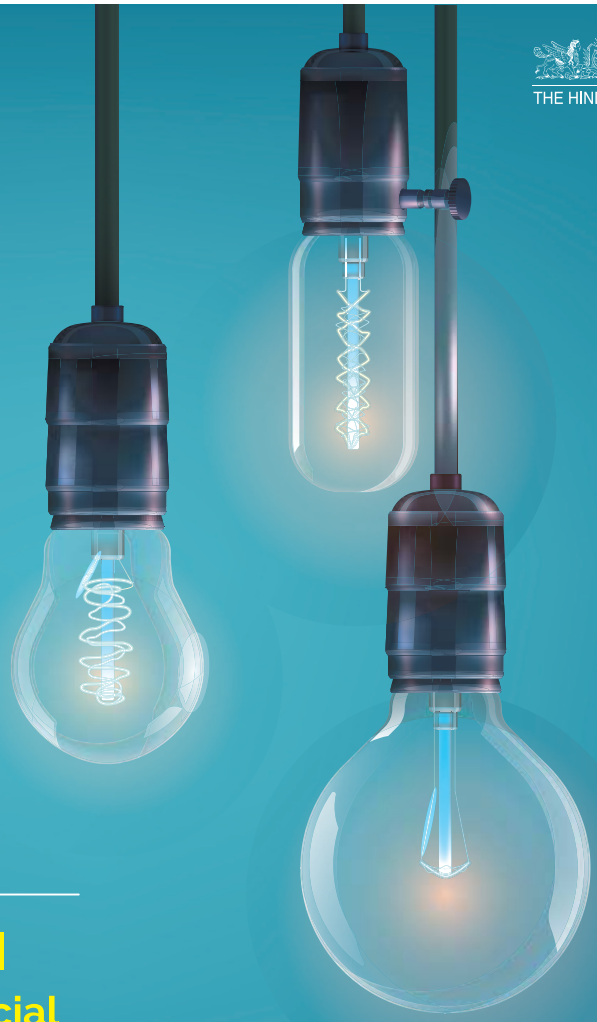
Great ideas start with a freshness in thinking. A change from the ordinary. A change from the usual. A change that becomes a catalyst. We call them the changemakers. They ignite a spark that more often than not ends up lighting up the world we live in making it a better place than what it was yesterday.

Let's once again recognise and applaud these catalysts of change.

CATEGORIES: Changemaker of the year | Young Changemaker | Changemaker – Digital Transformation | Changemaker – Financial Transformation | Changemaker – Social Transformation

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A sound review

Supreme Court’s order on anti-atrocities law is a caution against entering legislative domain

After last year’s amendments aimed at nullifying the effect of a Supreme Court judgment that was seen as diluting the law against atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the apex court’s decision recalling the earlier verdict may not appear very significant. However, the latest order by a three-judge Bench on the Centre’s petition seeking a review is more than a mere academic exercise. Its sound reasoning and sympathetic reconsideration have fortified the legislative measure to restore the law on atrocities committed on Dalits as originally conceived by Parliament. The March 2018 decision laid down three new rules as safeguards against the Act’s possible misuse: that the bar on anticipatory bail under Section 18 need not prevent courts from granting advance bail; that a person can be arrested only if the “appointing authority” (in the case of a public servant) or the SP (in the case of others) approves such arrest; and that there should be a preliminary enquiry into all complaints. It caused an uproar among Dalits, and a nation-wide protest in August last year turned violent in some places. There was political clamour for Parliament’s intervention to restore the anti-atrocities law to its original rigour. That the Bench declined to stay its own order when a review was sought spurred the government into action.

There was widespread criticism then that the BJP’s perceived espousal of upper caste interests and its weak submissions in court had led to the verdict. It was even argued that the Centre was under political compulsion to undo the perception that the interests of the SCs and STs were in danger. The court’s re-examination, on the contrary, is anchored in sound principles. It first underscores that special laws for the protection of SC and ST communities flow from social realities, the discrimination they still face and the circumstances that preclude them from mustering the courage to lodge a complaint in the first place. The court assails the assumption that SC/ST members are more likely to give false complaints than the general population (as evidenced by the fact that there is no preliminary enquiry or prior sanction for arrest envisaged for other complaints). In other words, the additional “safeguards” against the alleged abuse of law by Dalits is another form of discrimination, the court has pointed out. Further, it rejects the idea of treating Dalits as people prone to lodging false complaints. The directions for getting an authority’s sanction for arrest or holding a preliminary enquiry for this class of cases alone are extra-statutory, and clearly amount to the judiciary engaging in legislation. The review is a timely reminder that the top court’s power to pass any order required to uphold justice cannot be used to give directives contrary to existing laws or to supplant them altogether.

Raining misery

Better infrastructure for water management to break the droughts, floods cycle is needed
If Bihar is struggling to stay afloat in the ongoing monsoon, its distress can be traced to poor infrastructure and a lack of administrative preparedness. Even large parts of the capital, Patna, have been paralysed without power and communications, as the State government tries to drain its streets of water, and critical rations are distributed by boat and helicopter. The rain has not spared the more affluent residents either; those living in upscale localities including the Deputy Chief Minister, Sushil Kumar Modi, have been rescued. But the plight of people in a dozen other districts, many of them struggling with underdevelopment, is much worse. Across Bihar, there has been a significant loss of life and property. Scenes of similar distress have been reported from some other States as well, notably eastern Uttar Pradesh. The monsoon is expected to withdraw after October 10, more than a month behind normal, and its overhang is consistent with the prevalent scientific view on the effects of a changing climate: extreme rainfall and drought occurring at an increased frequency. Normal patterns will become less common in coming years, according to the current consensus. This alarming outlook calls for a far-sighted national response, with the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, given the responsibility of coordinating the efforts of other Ministries in charge of housing, urban and rural development, water management, and agriculture, as well as State governments.

Indian cities are attracting heavy investments in several spheres, but State and municipal administrations have not matched their ambitions for development with capacity building and infrastructure creation. They must focus on ensuring the safety of citizens and durability of economic assets. Ignoring urban planning and adaptation is proving costly, and losses are sapping the vitality of the economy. In its Cities and Climate Change report, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change pointed to flooding as a key danger, apart from drought and heat islands. This is particularly true of urban centres through which rivers flow – such as Patna – and are often located on the coast, facing the additional threat of cyclones. India’s cities should work towards solutions that use engineering and ecology to contain the excess water from rain and put it to good use. This could be in the form of new lakes and bioswales, which are vegetated channels to manage rainwater. There is no better time to create such green infrastructure than today, as water management is a priority programme of the NDA government. States should be able to find financial and technical linkages to put up flood-handling structures. In Bihar’s case, coordination with Nepal to track monsoon flows is also vital, since big Gangetic rivers originate in the Himalayan region.

Decoding the corporate-Hindutva alliance

It spells double danger – threatening India’s secular and democratic standing and miring the economy deeper in crisis



PRABHAT PATNAIK

Hindutva “nationalism” unlike anti-colonial nationalism does not comprehend economics. The reason is simple. Central to anti-colonial nationalism was an understanding of colonial exploitation. This is why it distinguished between all previous rulers and the colonial rulers: previous rulers had appropriated economic surplus from the peasantry and spent it domestically, thereby generating employment; colonialism expropriated surplus from the peasantry and shipped most of it abroad which destroyed domestic employment. Hindutva obliterates this basic distinction, putting the Mughals and the British on a par, because it does not comprehend economics.

A discourse shift

This ironically has been its forte. In a period in which neo-liberal capitalism has lost its steam, the corporate-financial oligarchy wants an ideological prop different from the one it had used earlier, namely the promise of a high GDP growth and its potentially beneficial effect for all. This no longer suffices when growth slackens. Orienting state policy in favour of this oligarchy and yet preventing any revolt from below requires a discourse shift, which Hindutva provides. This is the basis of the formation of the corporate-Hindutva alliance which currently rules the country.

Had Hindutva been more economics-savvy and attempted to tinker with the economic regime to overcome the crisis that has arisen essentially because of the contradictions of neo-liberalism

(though aggravated by blunders such as demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax, or GST), its usefulness to the corporates would have been limited. This alliance would have got ruptured. But Hindutva’s ignorance in economic matters has stood it in good stead vis-à-vis the corporates; and the alliance continues.

This shift of discourse is from one bequeathed by the anti-colonial struggle, where political formations vied with one another in projecting the relief they promised to the people, to one of hyper-nationalism that has little in common with anti-colonial nationalism, and largely sidesteps the material conditions of life of the people. It harks back rather to a European hyper-nationalism that reached its culmination during the inter-war years.

Political impact

Such a shift is unprecedented in Indian politics which is why the Opposition has become so incapacitated. The Left, committed to the old discourse, has been stunned; it is now just beginning to stir. The Congress is unable to make up its mind whether to stick to the old discourse, or to follow, however grudgingly, the new discourse of Hindutva hyper-nationalism.

The importance of this discourse shift was clearly manifest during the recent Lok Sabha elections. The Bharatiya Janata Party had lost ground prior to it; and a powerful peasant movement was building up threatening its continuance in power. But Pulwama and the Balakot strike, strengthening the hyper-nationalist discourse, gave it a fresh lease of life. The same peasants, who had marched against the government in Delhi just days before the elections, voted for its continuance.

The usefulness of this discourse shift to the corporate-financial oligarchy is obvious from recent developments.



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

In the lee of the dilution of Articles 370 and 35A, which amounts to a forcible annexation of Jammu and Kashmir and which stokes Hindutva hyper-nationalism, the government has introduced corporate tax concessions worth ₹1.45 lakh crore, ostensibly to overcome the economy’s crisis. Whatever opposition one would have normally expected to this gratuitous transfer of public funds to corporate pockets, is drowned out in the din of hyper-nationalism celebrating the “triumph” in Kashmir.

The fact that this tax-concession will have a negative effect on the level of activity in the economy, and hence on employment and output, though obvious, is scarcely articulated. Since the tax-concession will not be financed by a larger fiscal deficit, as that would alienate globalised finance capital which the government is loath to do, it will have to pinch resources from the working people. Any income-shift from the working people to the corporates, however, *ceteris paribus* reduces consumption demand in the economy.

This is because the propensity to consume out of income is higher for working people than for corporates who keep their extra income partly as undistributed profits; even out of the dividends distributed out of such extra income the propensity to consume is low. And since corporate investment depends on the expected growth in the size of the market, which a rise in the current post-tax profits does not change an iota,

there will be no additional investment that would be caused by such tax concessions. Hence the overall aggregate demand will decline, worsening the crisis. What is more, with such a decline in aggregate demand, investment in the next period will decline, accentuating the downward spiral of the economy.

Income divide

This crisis itself has been caused by the enormous increase in income inequality that neo-liberal capitalism has brought about, not just in India but the world over. It has shifted incomes from the working people, namely peasants, workers, artisans, craftsmen, and fishermen, towards the corporate-financial oligarchy. The demand-contracting effects of this shift had been offset for long by a set of contingent factors, mainly asset price bubbles, both in India and globally. But with the decline of such factors, the crisis has manifested itself, with Narendra Modi’s demonetisation and GST only compounding the problem arising from the structural infirmity of neo-liberal capitalism. And now the government’s solution to the crisis is to further shift incomes from the working people to the corporates which caused the crisis in the first place.

But as long as the government succeeds in keeping alive the Hindutva hyper-nationalist discourse, it can manage to divert attention from its economic mistakes. The real question is: how did it succeed in marketing its hyper-nationalist discourse?

While there are multiple reasons for it, one must not underestimate the pervasive inculcation of fear and insecurity in the minds of the people. Any criticism of the government, or any presentation of the other side of an argument, brings in charges of “sedition”, anti-nationalism, and belonging to the “tukde-tukde” gang, with little

relief from the judiciary which typically follows the executive; political opponents are threatened by the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation for alleged financial misdemeanours; and then there is the army of “trolls” and hoodlums that can be unleashed on anyone, with the police generally looking the other way. In this context, and given the virtually complete capitulation of the media to the project of Hindutva hyper-nationalism, only one side of the picture gets presented; not surprisingly this side is taken by many as the truth.

A camouflage

The counter-productiveness of following a pro-corporate and anti-working people income distribution strategy in the midst of a crisis caused by inadequate aggregate demand, will become apparent over time; but this will only spawn even greater Hindutva hyper-nationalist mega projects. The idea is to “shock and awe” people in order to distract attention from the economy and camouflage the government’s economic failures.

This however entails a double danger to the country. The Hindutva hyper-nationalist “shock and awe” mega projects, such as “one country-one language”, or a National Register of Citizens for the country as a whole, or the Citizenship Amendment Bill, pose a threat to our very existence as a secular and democratic society and polity; at the same time the pro-corporate and anti-working-people economic policies would mire the economy deeper in crisis. Since such economic policies stimulate the “shock-and-awe” projects, the country is caught in a vicious dialectic which will continue until the tide turns.

Prabhat Patnaik is Professor Emeritus, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Furthering this neighbourhood friendship

There is scope for India-Bangladesh ties to move to the next level, based on cooperation, coordination and consolidation



SYED MUNIR KHASRU

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will make her first official visit to India from October 3-6, post the general elections in Bangladesh (December 2018) and India (May 2019). She will address the World Economic Forum’s India Economic Summit followed by the bilateral visit. India and Bangladesh today enjoy one of the best periods of their relationship, with positive development in the areas of diplomatic, political, economic and security relations.

Despite gains, the issues

The current Bangladesh government has uprooted security threats and acts of insurgency against India and today, the India-Bangladesh border is one of India’s most secured. The signing of the Land Boundary Agreement in 2015 was a milestone, where the two neighbours amicably resolved a long-outstanding issue.

Bilateral trade was a little over \$9 billion in FY 2017-18 and Bangladeshi exports increased by 42.91%, reaching \$1.25 billion in FY 2018-2019. Removal of non-tariff barriers

will help Bangladeshi exports such as harmonising the standards for goods accepted by India. In 2018, in addition to the 660 MW of power imported by Bangladesh, Indian export of electricity increased by another 500 MW. A 1,600 MW power station with a dedicated transmission system is being developed to boost power trade.

Land routes have gained popularity over air travel, and are preferred by 85.6% of Bangladeshis visiting India. Train services on the Dhaka-Kolkata and Kolkata-Khulna are doing well, while a third, on the Agartala-Akhaura route, is under construction. Five additional bus services were introduced in 2018; this March, the first ever Dhaka-Kolkata cruise ship was launched. Bangladeshi tourists accounted for 21.6% of the total percentage of tourists visiting India in 2018 (83.7% tourists and 10.28% medical patients). Today, Bangladesh contributes 50% of India’s health tourism revenue.

A few major outstanding issues still remain, with the most pressing being the Teesta Water Sharing Agreement. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s refusal to endorse water-sharing terms agreed upon by Prime Minister Modi in 2015 has resulted in the current impasse. A lack of water has affected 100,000 hectares of land, with contamination affecting the soil; the increased cost of pesticides



PTI

and irrigation has made farming less profitable. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) has left out 1.9 million Assamese from the list with a group labelled as “illegal immigrants from Bangladesh” living in Assam post-1971. Bangladesh remains firm in its stance that no migrants travelled to Assam illegally during the 1971 war of independence and that the controversial NRC risks hurting relations.

Border killings have decreased. India’s Border Security Force (BSF) claims that most of the firing is in self-defence in tackling cattle trafficking. However, since the ban by India on cattle export, cattle trade has fallen from 23 lakh in 2013 to 75,000 till the end of May this year – which makes the argument unconvincing. International rules of engagement entail that military action must be “proportional to provocation”, which makes such killings a serious violation of human rights. It must not

be forgotten that in 2018, the BSF DG had said: “Relations between India and Bangladesh and the two border guarding forces are at their best right now.”

Since 2010, India has approved three lines of credit to Bangladesh of \$7.362 billion to finance development projects. Due to bureaucratic red tape, just \$442 million has been disbursed till December 2018. While Bangladesh has been slow in implementation, India’s requirement of the disbursement process to be approved by India’s Exim Bank has not helped either. During Sheikh Hasina’s visit to Delhi in 2017, two defence pacts were signed; in 2018, India extended a credit line of \$500 million to purchase armaments; two memoranda of understanding were also signed for cooperation between the naval forces.

Subject of Rohingya

The Rohingya issue and India’s remarks in 2017 on the issue have been upsetting for Bangladesh which has been facing the challenge of providing shelter to more than a million Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution by one of the world’s most brutal military regimes. The recent visit to Dhaka by India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar (August 19-21), saw a marked departure in India’s position; he had said then: “We agreed that safe, speedy and sustainable return of displaced persons (Ro-

hingyas) is in the national interest of all three countries - Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India.” However, it is China that is mediating when, given its geographical proximity, it is India which is ideally positioned to play a positive role in regional leadership.

India-Bangladesh relations have matured in the last decade with development in many areas of cooperation. In a neighbourhood where distrust and cynicism prevail over friendship and hope, the relationship between the two countries has given hope for optimism. But the sooner existing challenges are resolved, the better it is. On the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly late last month, Mr. Modi assured Sheikh Hasina that she would not need to worry about the NRC and water-sharing as bilateral relations are very good. It is now time to walk the talk.

The shared colonial legacy, history and socio-cultural bonds demand that the political leadership of the two countries inject momentum into India-Bangladesh relations. Sheikh Hasina’s trip to India will hopefully help relations graduate to the next level of strengthening the three Cs: cooperation, coordination, and consolidation.

Syed Munir Khasru is Chairman of the international think tank, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Remembering Gandhi

Whether it was design or destiny that propelled Mahatma Gandhi to the forefront of the Indian freedom movement is anybody’s guess (“Mahatma@150” special pages, “The pulse of a legacy in an age of heroics”, October 2). Whatever said and done, his overwhelming presence was the vital glue for freedom fighters, regardless of their political or religious differences, to fight on. They spoke in one clear voice. Gandhiji will continue to be revered as the first exponent of non-violence. At the same time, the contribution of other patriots cannot be overlooked. The spirit of Gandhiji’s sacrifice has gradually begun to fade

away from the minds of the current generation on account of western influences in almost every walk of life. How this can be countered would be interesting as Gandhian ideals are timeless and have a place in the world.

J.S. ACHARYA,
Hyderabad

■ Almost all the leaders of every political party have marched to Gandhi memorials to pay their floral and oral tributes. It is indeed time for introspection rather than ostentatious celebration as whatever that was dear to the Mahatma to keep India’s social fabric from fraying is getting weakened. Caste and communal divisions are sharper than before. Had the Mahatma lived longer, he would have greatly grieved

over the unprincipled chase and fight for power. “My life is my message,” said the legendary advocate of truth and non-violence. Let the leaders of today emulate at least a couple of his teachings instead of merely mouthing empty eulogies.

S.V. VENKATAKRISHNAN,
Bengaluru

■ The Indian media has become subservient to the ruling dispensation with hardly much space being given to the almost non-existent political Opposition. Perhaps the media and media houses believe that the country is heading towards one-party rule; so currying favour with it will serve its interests well. The media today is no longer even-handed, nor does it have the will to speak up

against the government’s wrong policies and actions. It will be interesting to see how long a few upright media houses can hold their ground in the current milieu (Editorial page, “What would Gandhi say about the Indian media?” October 2).

DEEPAK SINGHAL,
Chennai

■ Gandhiji would definitely have been more than happy to see how the Indian media has shaped in terms of its technological prowess. But it was Gandhi who said, “India is not Calcutta and Bombay; India lives in her seven thousand villages”. To what extent are voices from here (mainly those of farmers, rural women and the marginalised sections) being heard? How many farmers, rural women and

communities who are still hidden being given importance in studios? The heated debates that are telecast do not contribute much in long-term impact. Showcasing the grass-roots is important too.

RAMALA KINNERA,
Hyderabad

■ The Mahatma’s birth anniversary is an occasion to take stock of his teachings and to evaluate how far we have lived up to his teachings. In actual practice, it has become an annual ritual as we have forgotten to live up to his ideals. We are interested only in using his name for our relevance and photo-ops. Those who matter continue to fool those on the other side of the divide by raising false hopes

of a better future that never seems to materialise.

V. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

■ The lifestyle of Gandhiji – ‘long-distance’ walking, dietary habits, periodic fasting and avoidance of tobacco and alcohol – assumes far more relevance today as non-communicable diseases are emerging as a major threat in India. This assumes importance as the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020 places importance on lifestyle choices. It was the Mahatma who said: “It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold or silver.”

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tiruchi

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In pursuit of an ideal criminal process

It is time to rethink the power of arrest and the concept of cognisable offences



Let us say we were creating the law on criminal process from scratch, for a just utopia. The law would need to empower police to arrest persons who are probable, not merely possible, suspects. Inbuilt in such a power to arrest must be a restriction against arbitrarily arresting people who are not probable crime suspects. Such a restriction would have to be founded in the right of individuals against arbitrary intrusions into their lives by the state and law enforcement, recognised in Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017). Departing from the view of privacy as a bundle of rights, the Supreme Court held that privacy is essential for protecting personal liberty as it allows us to define ourselves and our relations to others. But it is not enough to merely recognise a right of individuals, and a corresponding restriction on the power of the police. The restriction must also serve to deter the police from intruding willy-nilly into the private lives of individuals. On balance, criminal process in a just utopia ought to incentivise honouring the individual's right to privacy as autonomy while discharging law enforcement duties. After all, one is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Cognisable offences

How close is India to being this utopia? Activist Shehla Rashid, on FIRs accusing her of sedition and promoting enmity between religious groups, had to recently secure protection against arrest from a court. This is because both the named offences are "cognisable" – that is, an officer can take cognisance of and arrest a suspect without seeking a court's warrant to do so, if she has "reason to believe" that the person has committed the offence and is satisfied that the arrest is necessary on certain enumerated bases. Within 24 hours of the arrest, the officer must have any further detention of the arrested person ratified by a judicial magistrate.

How would officers make the decision on whether to arrest someone? They must first weigh the probability



of a person having engaged in the criminalised conduct. This is a factual question. Next, they must assess if the conduct in question fits the definition of the offence, to decide if the person ought to be arrested. This too is a factual question. However, this question is comparatively easier to answer when the offence criminalises conduct for constituting the harm. For instance, the offence of murder constitutes the harm of loss of life – the police officer must decide, on facts, whether the loss of life resulted from the intentional conduct of the accused. But it is a harder question to answer in case of offences such as those in the FIR against Ms. Rashid, as officers must answer whether the suspect's conduct will result in or cause harm as a downstream effect. Needless to say, this prediction can only be accurate and free of error if officers are clairvoyant!

Whether the offence criminalises conduct for constituting harm or causing harm as a downstream effect, there is no restriction on the powers of the police that deters arrests based on an error in answering these factual questions. In the case of offences mentioned in Ms. Rashid's example, factual errors can result from exuberant policing, driven by subjective convictions on what might cause hatred, contempt or excite disaffection against the government or promote enmity between religious groups. In offences like these, the line between exuberant policing and a reasonable belief that the arrested person engaged in criminalised conduct can be hazy. Therefore, it is unclear what parameters can be employed by the judicial magistrate in deciding whether to remand the accused person to further custody for

investigating the acts of the accused. An arrest based on such an error would unconstitutionally curtail not only the arrested person's freedom to engage in speech and conduct, but also her liberty against arbitrary arrest. Further queering the pitch is the requirement on the police to apply judgments of the Supreme Court modifying definitions of offences to bring them in line with the Constitution. For instance, the definition of sedition was read down in Kedarnath Singh v. Bihar (1962) to encompass only speech or conduct that can "incite violence" or "involves the intention or tendency to create disorder". Thus, an officer examining a sedition FIR needs to accurately understand and apply Kedarnath Singh, before taking cognisance of the offence. The Court restated this requirement in September 2016, in Common Cause v. Union. The question is whether such an essentially mixed question of fact and law can be left to the police force, an essentially executive authority trained to undertake investigative decisions.

Non-cognisable offences

On the other hand, a non-cognisable offence would need officers to approach a court for a warrant before they can arrest a suspect. Why some offences can lead to arrests only upon judicial intervention for issuance of warrant is unclear. One rationale proposed by some courts is that grave and serious offences are cognisable. However, the Malimath Committee noted in 2003 that many serious offences like public servants disobeying the law to cause injury to any person; bribery during election; buying or disposing of any person as a slave; cheating; mischief; forgery;

making or using documents resembling currency notes; and criminal intimidation were non-cognisable. Contradicting the gravity-of-offence rationale is the 177th Law Commission Report which states that cognisable offences are those that require immediate arrest. However, lawyer and scholar Abhinav Sekhri notes that Part B of the Schedule comprising cognisable offences in the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) carries several offences that do not necessitate immediate arrest, such as making unauthorised constructions, repairs and modifications to one's house under a Maharashtra town planning law. This raises questions about the rationale behind selectively requiring judicial scrutiny of some arrests, while permitting full police-discretion over other arrests. The CrPC was written in 1973. Ever since, multiple judgments of the apex court such as Joginder Kumar (1994), DK Basu (1997) as well as Law Commission Reports (154th, 177th) critiqued the wide powers of arrest for cognisable offences. This led to the 2009 amendment which restricted the power to arrest, to persons against whom "a reasonable complaint" or "reasonable suspicion" exists, or "credible information" is received, of having "committed a cognisable offence." Even so, the CrPC neither deters arbitrary arrests, nor comprises incentives for carrying out arrests consistent with the individual liberty and autonomy of individuals. What then happens to the right to privacy and autonomy of a person who is arrested on a charge that does not meet the tests laid down by the Court – such as in Kedarnath Singh or, worse, on a charge that is proved to be empty? A code that does not compel the police to constantly be accountable to individual liberty and the Constitution is merely a police procedure manual. After Puttaswamy's emphatic recognition of the right to privacy as autonomy, inherent in individual dignity, it is imperative that we rethink the powers to arrest for cognisable offences against the state and against public tranquility. For the CrPC to truly realise criminal justice, we might even profitably reimagine the very concept of a cognisable offence as we presently know it.

Malavika Prasad is a lawyer and doctoral fellow at the Nalsar University of Law

Miles to go before becoming open defecation-free

India needs to have a non-coercive sanitation policy for those who continue to use the outdoors



October 2 was not only Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, but also the fifth, and perhaps final, anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission. Speaking in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared India "open defecation-free". But is rural India really open defecation-free? The Swachh Bharat Mission website claims with some caveats that the country has achieved 100% coverage of latrine ownership. If this was the definition of being open defecation-free, then, again with some caveats, India can be declared so.

Study findings

Ten months ago, our team revisited families we had interviewed in a 2014 survey in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. We asked about the defecation behaviour of nearly 10,000 people. Between 2014 and the end of 2018, latrine ownership in the region had increased by 34 percentage points. Yet, even in States that had already been declared open defecation-free, the actual coverage was far below 100%. Although the percentage of people defecating in the open declined by 26 percentage points, close to half still reported to be relieving themselves in the open. And sadly, the programme barely managed to bring any change in the behaviour of latrine owners. Like in 2014, about a quarter of people who own a functional latrine continued to defecate in the open. Overall, the study found that 44% of people in these four States defecated in the open. These facts are unlikely to have radically changed in only 10 months. Some may call Mr. Modi's declaration a political overstatement and move on to celebrate the reduction in open defecation. But doing so will leave us with an unanswered question: Will India have a sanitation policy that will address the remaining who openly defecate? For those who care about India's abandoned toilets and stunted health outcomes, this is an important question. In the past five years, the Indian government has built a 100 million toilets. This implies that it constructed 38 toilets every minute that had passed since the Swachh Bharat Mission was launched. With a coun-

try as large as India, this is a big achievement. But another important question to ask here is: how was this achieved?

The other half of the story

Hard-working government officials going around convincing people to build and use a latrine might be half the story, but the remaining half is alarming. From talking to 156 government officials, we learned that many rural Indians were threatened with or even denied their legal rights, such as PDS ration, for not building a latrine. Officials resorted to threats of fines and jail terms to intimidate people in some places. "The tehsildar came [to our village] once. He told the *patwari* that he should cancel the Kisan Credit Cards of people who did not build toilets," said a village secretary in M.P. In Rajasthan, a ration dealer told us that the government had asked him to "stop people's ration until they had a *niralo ghar* [house with a toilet] stamp on their ration card". With unrealistic targets pushed down from the top, "Swachh Bharat Mission beneficiaries" were not alone in facing coercion. Government officials at every level – whether elected, appointed, or contracted – faced immense pressure and threats from their bosses. A block coordinator in M.P. said, "We have to motivate people but we also have construction targets. We have to build 18,000 toilets before October 2 [2018]. So, we have put motivation aside and we focus on the construction target. I am a contract worker. They tell us that if we don't get 700 toilets built, we will be fired." Coercion in some form or the other was ubiquitous in almost all the places we visited. More than half of the families we talked to reported the use of coercive activities in their villages to get people to build or use latrines; one in every four families told us that they have heard of government benefits being withdrawn for not having a latrine; and Dalits and Adivasis were at least twice as likely as others to report that they or their family members had faced coercion. The spirit of bidding farewell to open defecation as a gift to Gandhi deserves accolades. But we must not forget that there are still miles to go. India needs to have a sanitation policy that focuses on reducing open defecation. And most importantly, it should follow Gandhi's path of ahimsa and compassion.

Nazar Khalid is a research fellow with the research institute for compassionate economics (r.i.c.e.) and Nikhil Srivastav is a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin and a research fellow with r.i.c.e.

The Magufuli 'bulldozer' effect

Tanzania, which has long enjoyed a reputation for democratic stability, is taking an authoritarian turn

GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAN

As Tanzania nears the 2020 election, its anti-corruption crusade seems headed to a one-man dictatorship. President John Magufuli, leader of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), or Party of the Revolution, made waves when he took office in 2015. He purged thousands of ghost workers from public payrolls, fired incompetent bureaucrats and implemented targeted austerity. A bold move to abolish tuition fee in secondary education signalled continuity with the country's impressive record of investment in primary schooling. Initiatives to reclaim lost revenues from extractive industries were seen as essential to financing economic and social reform programmes. But at the end of four years of his term, no institution has been spared Mr. Magufuli's erratic, impulsive and brutal style of functioning. The President has done little to disguise his image as "bulldozer", a nickname he was given in his previous role as public works minister. Tanzania had long enjoyed a reputation for political stability in a region notorious for military coups. Its periodic democratic elections contrast with states that tend to subvert fixed terms. A sense of national identity fostered over decades distinguished Tanzania from the bloody conflict arising from ethnic and religious divisions that has marred the continent. A climate of relative peace, coupled with its transition to a more open economy, is why Dodoma had been the darling of donors and investors.

The numbers problem

But the perception was dealt a blow by a law enacted to criminalise any dissemination of data that contradicted official figures. The World Bank froze its aid package to Tanzania in 2018, lifting the embargo only this September after the government amended the statistics law in June to remove the threat of jail. In April, an International Monetary Fund report was banned because it criticised the government's policies as unpredictable and the statistics, unreliable. Dodoma's recent denial of instances of Ebola in the country, without fur-

nishing World Health Organization evidence, is thus no surprise. Another casualty of Mr. Magufuli's whimsical style is the state of the economy. Investment in Tanzania's mining sector has stalled over the last two years. Acacia Mining, Tanzania's largest producer, was cleared only in April for the resumption of gold ore exports. Operations were crippled following accusations of underreported sales and unpaid taxes.

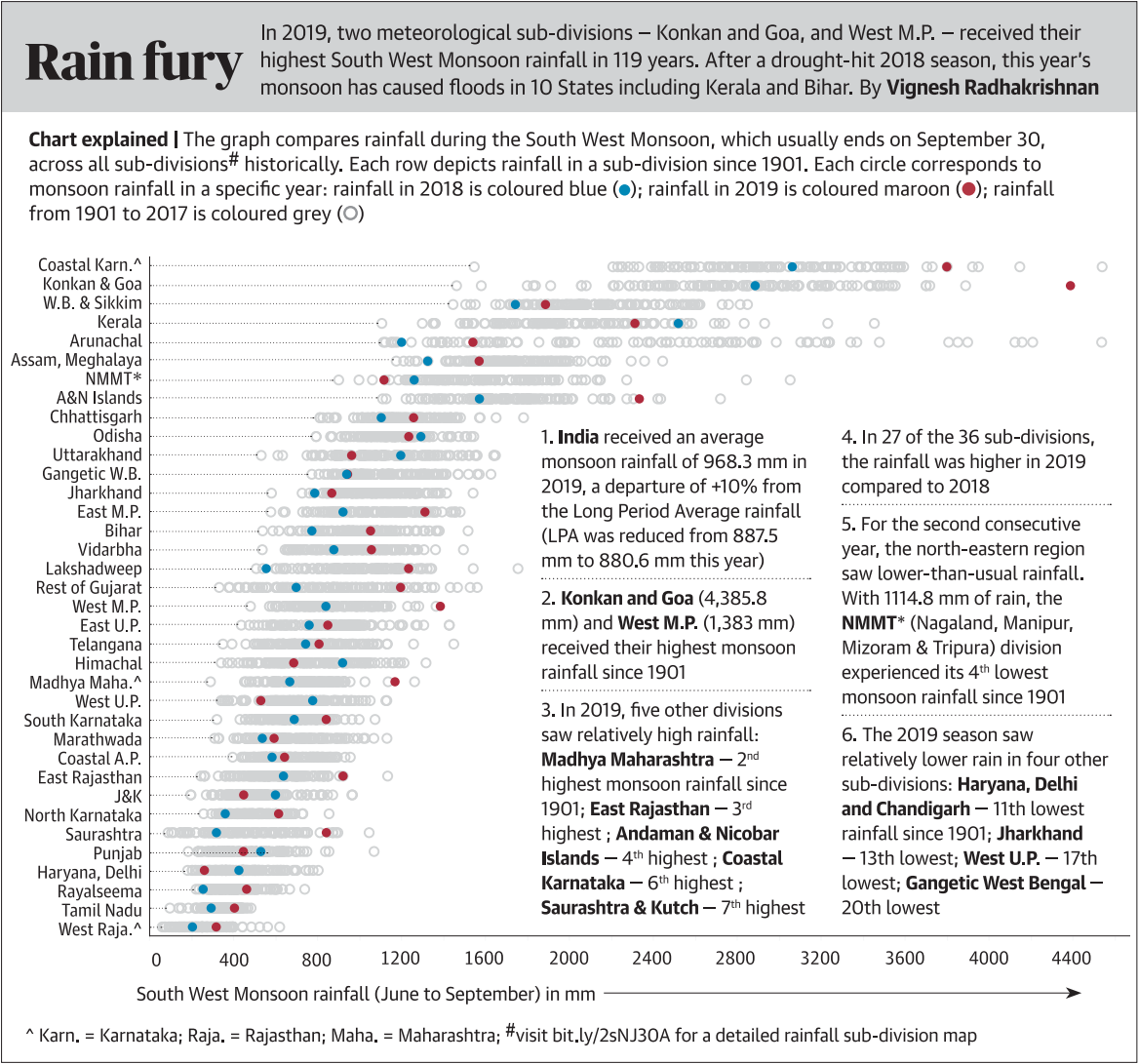
Dissent contained

The suppression of democratic dissent has been the biggest casualty of the Magufuli presidency. There has been a systematic assault on popular institutions. The ban on opposition rallies, discontinuation of live telecasts of parliamentary proceedings, and intimidation of journalists are proof that Mr. Magufuli has ripped up the democratic rule book. Tundu Lissu, a staunch government critic and leader of the opposition party Chadema, or Democracy and Progress, was arrested multiple times before he was wounded in a gun attack in 2017. Chadema officials have expressed concern that the attack was politically motivated. Under the prevailing political vacuum, the government has unleashed repression against the LGBT community and expelled teenage mothers from schools. Tanzania's authoritarian drift may have to do with the growing challenge to the ruling CCM. The party's vote share has steadily dropped from 2005 resulting in major gains for Chadema. Tanzania's unity is also under strain, as tensions deepen between the mainland Tankanyika and the archipelago of Zanzibar, which were merged in 1964. An instance was the annulment of the 2015 polls for Zanzibar's regional parliament, after the opposition Civic United Front (CUF) claimed victory. The CUF then boycotted the rerun, which CCM won with a landslide. Given the promising country's descent into authoritarianism, Tanzanians may feel some nostalgia for the founding President Julius Kamperage Nyerere, who is among Africa's towering anti-colonial leaders.

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DATA POINT



The Hindustan. FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE ISSUE DATED OCTOBER 2, 1969 THERE BEING NO ISSUE ON OCTOBER 3, 1969

The great liberator (From an Editorial)

As the nation gathers to pay homage to the Father of the Nation on his hundredth birthday, it is natural for those who have grown up in the post-Gandhi era to ask what his unique contribution was. There were other great national leaders who campaigned for independence and there were other prophets and thinkers who made eloquent speeches and wrote memorable books. But Mahatma Gandhi is rightly remembered as the greatest of them all, though he spoke very simply and sometimes held inconsistent opinions. His greatness is to be found in his success in mobilising the entire people of India in the long-drawn-out struggle for Indian freedom. He was the first mass leader who realised that the power of the British Raj could be toppled only with the support of the peasants in the villages and the workers in the cities.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THE ISSUE OF OCTOBER 2, THERE HAVING BEEN NO ISSUE ON OCTOBER 3, 1919

Moderate Deputation.

Bombay, October 1. – Among the passengers who arrived in Bombay [October 1] to-day by S.S. "Neuralia" were the Hon'ble Mr. Surendranath Bannerjee, President, & Mr. K.C. Roy, member of the Moderate Deputation, & Mr. C.P. Ramaswami Iyer of the Home Rule League Deputation which had proceeded to England in connection with reforms. An "Associated Press" representative asked Mr. Bannerjee what his impressions were about the work of the Moderate party and prospects of the Reform Bill now before Parliament. Mr. Bannerjee said in reply, speaking for the Moderate party he had no hesitation in saying that they, including every member of the party, did their best in helping forward the objects of the delegation according to their rights and their opportunities. They had a very busy time of it and speaking for himself he might say he never worked harder as he had in addition to the work of the committee to serve on another committee to which he had been appointed by the Secretary of State to study institutions of local self-government with a view to their applicability to Indian conditions and he had to submit a separate report for the consideration of the Government.

CM
YK

A ND-NDE



Ajit Doval
Doval briefs Saudi Prince on Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI
National Security Advisor Ajit Doval paid a two-day quiet visit to Saudi Arabia during which he apprised Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after the State's special status was withdrawn, official sources said on Wednesday.

The Saudi side conveyed to Mr. Doval that it was aware of New Delhi's long-held position on Kashmir, and emphasised on de-escalation of tension between India and Pakistan, they said.

The NSA arrived in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. Mr. Doval and Mr. Salman also discussed a range of bilateral and regional issues, including the missile and drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities last month, and ways to deepen anti-terror cooperation.

Saudi Arabia is a key pillar of India's energy security, being a source of 17% or more of crude oil and 32% of LPG requirements.

Notwithstanding the biggest ever attack on its oil facilities on September 14 that knocked out half of its daily oil production, Saudi Arabia assured India that it was committed to meet the country's energy security needs. Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al Jubeir and UAE Foreign Minister Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited Islamabad last month in the midst of escalating tension on Kashmir.

India also launched a diplomatic outreach to apprise major countries of its decisions on Jammu and Kashmir. Saudi Arabia, known to be a key ally of Pakistan, has been siding with India in its campaign to rid the region of terrorism and pledged to extend all cooperation to effectively deal with the challenge.

When counting of the dead came to a halt
Internet services hit for 58 days now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR
Mubeena Akhtar, 22, a resident of Srinagar's Jogi Lankar area, and the eldest of three siblings, is battling to sustain her family after her father, a government employee, passed away in the last week of July.

Two months on, Ms. Akhtar is unable to obtain a death certificate necessary for claiming the monthly pension benefits.

For the first time in the last three decades, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has stopped counting the dead and newborns in the city due to the Internet shutdown, enforced after the August 5 decision to revoke J&K's special status.

The official record showed no deaths or births registered between August 5 and August 26. However, in the month of September, the department only managed to issue 467 temporary 'under-process' certificates to the needy.

"We have been pleading with the BSNL to restore Internet on a humanitarian basis. Finally, the government, this Monday, managed to activate a private lease line for Internet service. Fourteen formal certificates have been issued on Tuesday," SMC health officer Dr. Qazi Javaid told *The Hindu*.

Prior to August 5, the SMC would issue, on an average, 1,500 death and birth certificates per month.

Amid outrage, senior political leaders set free in Jammu

NC, Congress and J&KPP members in the region let off with strictures on public statements regarding Article 370; no relief for Valley detainees

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR
With the announcement of the Block Development Council (BDC) polls amid growing outrage over continued political detentions, the J&K government on Tuesday released seven senior leaders of the National Conference (NC), Congress and J&K Panthers Party (J&KPP) from the Jammu region.

Officials said the NC's Davinder Singh Rana, Surjit Singh Salathia, Javed Rana and Sajjad Ahmed Kitcloo, Congress' Raman Bhalla and Waqar Rasool and Harsh Dev Singh of the J&KPP had been released. All these leaders had been placed under house arrest under Section

107 of the CrPC since August 5 – when the State's special status under Article 370 was revoked by the Centre.

More likely
Officials sources said more leaders from the Jammu region will be set free in the coming days.
An NC leader, requesting anonymity, confirmed that the party leaders were told on Tuesday night that "they were free to go anywhere".
Sources, however, said the released leaders have been directed to "desist from issuing any public statements". The authorities have specifically mentioned the issue of revocation of provisions of Article 370 to the released



Long wait: Kin of detained Kashmiri political workers waiting to meet them outside a detention centre in Srinagar. ■AP

leaders "to keep away from".
However, there is no time frame for release of dozens of political prisoners, including NC president Dr. Farooq

No child kept or taken into illegal detention in Kashmir, panel tells SC

'Juvenile Justice Act strictly followed in arrests of juveniles in conflict with law'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

As many as 144 juveniles "in conflict with law" were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir between August 5 and September 23. The youngest of them was nine years old. Almost all of them were released either the same day or after a brief period in observation homes.

A total of 46 juveniles were detained in observation homes in Srinagar and Jammu since August 5, when restrictions were imposed across the State following revocation of special status for J&K.

Twenty-five juveniles – 21 from Srinagar and four from Jammu – were bailed out from these homes.

The remaining – 15 in Srinagar and six in Jammu – are still lodged there pending inquiry.

This was reported to the Supreme Court by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Juvenile Justice Committee. The report was based on information provided by the DGP and the Mission Director, Jammu and Kashmir Child Protection Society.

The committee, chaired by Justice Ali Mohammad Ma-



On the defensive: Allegations of minors being picked up by the police are concocted and motivated, the DGP said. ■AP

grey, and comprising three other High Court judges, was tasked by the Supreme Court with ascertaining the veracity of reports that appeared in international and local media that the police had illegally picked up and detained children after August 5. The Committee, quoting the police chief, said that "no child has been kept or taken into illegal detention by police authorities".

The police chief had said that the juveniles were "strictly dealt in accordance under the Juvenile Justice Act". The report recorded the police chief's version that lawful process was fol-

lowed when investigating agencies established involvement of minors in stone-pelting, rioting or causing damage to public or private property.

For instance, the DGP referred to how a juvenile in Awantipora was "apprehended in his own interest" lest he should fall "in the company of violent mob and expose himself to moral, physical and psychological danger". This juvenile, the police chief said, was handed over to his parents the same day.

"No large-scale picking up of minors in the jurisdiction of the above places [Awan-

tipora, Pulwama, Pampore, Tral, Khrew] was made and allegations are purely concocted and motivated. The State machinery has been constantly upholding the rule of law and not a single juvenile in conflict of law has been illegally detained," the official said.

Observation homes

In fact, a child subject to custody is lodged in an observation home on the orders of the Juvenile Justice Board. The DGP said children were falling victim to "malicious propaganda" and they were being used as a shield by terrorists and other vested interests.

A State nodal officer in the rank of an ADGP monitors cases involving juveniles.

On its own, the Committee merely informed the apex court that certain "regular" habeas corpus petitions were filed against "regular" detention orders of the District Magistrates under the Public Safety Act. In such cases, the detainees usually claim to be juveniles.

In these instances, the High Court orders an inquiry into the age and other details of the detainee concerned.

tinue to mar the daily life. Around 179 mainstream leader remain detained in the Valley, according figures from top officials.

Official sources said the release of the leaders is "to provide a level field to political parties" ahead of the BDC elections scheduled for October 24. Both the Congress and the NC have criticised the government move to hold these polls under current circumstances and in absence of means of communication.

The NC has termed the upcoming BDC polls as "biggest mockery of democracy".

"Announcing BDC polls at a time when the entire leadership of the State is captive

is no less than a farce. There were many areas where the locals had no idea about who was contesting from their areas. In other parts of the Valley, candidates were imported from Jammu region and supplanted on the people of Kashmir," said the NC spokesman in a statement.

"The present ruling dispensation is known for its inherent aversion for NC. Our party has traditionally been a thorn in the eyes of RSS-BJP," he added.

'Aid to militants'

In a separate incident, Mohamad Shafi Saroori, brother of Congress leader and ex-minister G.M. Saroori, was arrested for sheltering mili-

itants in Jammu's Kishtwar district.

Police sources Mr. Saroori and five others were involved in "providing logistic support to the Hizbul Mujahideen militants", who were killed in the Batote encounter on Saturday.

The family, however, denied the allegation. "The house which the Kishtwar police claimed was used by the militants was abandoned by the family way back. The house is presently occupied by the tenants, including non-Muslims and police personnel," said the family in a statement. Mr. Saroori termed the move "as politically motivated to malign his and his family's image".

INTERVIEW | ILTIJA MUFTI

'Centre's behaviour in Jammu & Kashmir reeks of paranoia'

Which democracy arrests children, asks Iltija Mufti

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Iltija Mufti, younger daughter of former J&K chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, was allowed by the Supreme Court to meet her mother four weeks into her detention following the revocation of Article 370 and the state-wide clampdown. She speaks of a simmering anger in the Valley under lockdown for over 50 days.

How has the prolonged detention impacted Mehbooba Mufti?

■ I'm thankful to the Supreme Court. It was only after their intervention that I could meet my mother. These aren't normal times so I felt overwhelmed when I finally saw her. She has a lot of inner strength and is coping. However, she is very distressed about the manner in which minors have been detained. Which democracy arrests kids?

During your stay in Srinagar, did you face any further restrictions compared to the past?



The Centre has not responded to my email on the legality of detentions... They don't want to leave a paper trail

■ Thanks to the Supreme Court's order, the Special Security Group or the State administration couldn't harass me this time.

However, they aren't receptive at all. In the course of four days I tried unsuccessfully to meet the Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar, and then had to leave a written communication. My grandmother still hasn't been allowed to meet her brother lodged in Srinagar's Centaur Hotel, a designated jail now.

The State administration

only responds when one approaches the media. Otherwise their behaviour has been extremely insensitive and irresponsible. One shudders to think what a common Kashmiri must be facing.

Is Ms. Mufti allowed to meet her relatives and the party leaders?

■ The State administration gets orders from the Centre. And their behaviour vis-a-vis Kashmir reeks of paranoia. We were able to meet my mother only once I spoke to the media and approached the SC.

Did you get any reply to the open letter addressed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah?

■ I have written several letters and emails since August 5. I'm told BBC got in touch with the Home Minister's office and they declined to comment on my letter. They haven't bothered responding to my email questioning the legality and nature of detentions either. They don't want to leave a paper trail since whatever is being done is illegal and against the law.

India seeks Swiss bank details of Lalit Modi, wife Minal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI/BERNE
Switzerland has issued public notices to former IPL commissioner Lalit Modi and his wife Minal following requests made by Indian authorities about the Swiss

bank details of the couple.

The two separate notifications dated October 1 did not disclose any further details, besides giving Lalit and Minal 10 days to designate authorised persons to respond.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY				
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT				
NOTICE NO: 12/2019				
e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non-Ferrous Scrap, other Misc Scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way Scrap Material.				
Sl. No.	e-Auction Conducted by	Date of Auction for the Month of November 2019		
1	Dy.CMM/GSD/PER	01.11.2019	15.11.2019	29.11.2019
2	Dy.CMM/CSSD/GOC	04.11.2019	12.11.2019	21.11.2019
3	Dy.CMM/SSD/PTJ	05.11.2019	-----	20.11.2019
4	Sr.DMM/MAS	06.11.2019	13.11.2019	22.11.2019
5	Sr.DMM/TVC	07.11.2019	14.11.2019	25.11.2019
6	Sr.DMM/TPJ	08.11.2019	18.11.2019	27.11.2019
7	Sr.DMM/SA	11.11.2019	19.11.2019	28.11.2019
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our Website: http://www.ireps.gov.in . →E-Auction →Sale →Live →Auctions.				
Principal Chief Materials Manager / Chennai				

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT				
Head Office: Directorate, Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Rajasthan				
Ambedkar Bhavan, G 3/1, Rajmahal Residency Area, Civil Lines, Jaipur				
Phone: 0141-2220258, 0141-2220217 E-mail: raj.sje@rajasthan.gov.in				
Ref.:F7(2)/(G.H./Cycle supv./SJED/2019/57501 Date: 27-09-19				
NOTICE INVITING e-BID (NIB No. 04/2019-20)				
For Hostels under SJED All over Rajasthan				
Sealed Single Stage, Two-envelopes unconditional online Bid for One Year				
contract are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the procurement and Complete MTB unicycle frame bicycles (black colour) for unisex from the Producers / Manufacturers / Wholesalers / Suppliers registered under relevant authority for providing such items. Estimated Bid value is Rs. 3.50 crores and Estimated Quantity 10,000 Nos. Cycle.				
The Bid documents containing the terms and conditions can be download from the website of State Public Procurement Portal, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or e-Procurement Portal, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in , from http://lsje.rajasthan.gov.in The last date of online submission of Bid is 17-10-2019 upto 14.30 hours.				
UBNo. SOC1920A0083 SOC1920GLRC00127				
Director Social Justice and Empowerment Department Rajasthan, Jaipur				
DIPR/C/8245				

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD-Mahadevapura Zone
BBMP, 9th Floor, Shopping Complex,
4th Block Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 011.

No.: EE/SWD/MDP/TEND/01/2019-20 Date: 01-10-2019

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION

Reference : This Office Tender Notification No. EE/SWD/MDP/TEND/01/2019-20, dated : 15.06.2019

Name of Work : Construction / Remodelling of Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Drains, Culverts / bridges and all other allied works of SWD spread out at various locations in Mahadevapura Constituency and K.R.Pura Constituency of Mahadevapura Zone under CMNBY scheme Package-1(2019-20) Mahadevapura Zone.

This is to notify that as per orders of the commissioner due to extraordinary reasons, the tender invited through the above tender notification is hereby cancelled.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura-SWD Zone

"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

MADRAS FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Manali, Chennai 600 068

e-TENDER NOTICE

Name of Tender	Estimated Value	Last date for submission
CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING WITH AC SHEET ROOF FOR DEDICATED RO PLANT	Rs.1.47 Crores Including GST	23.10.2019 UPTO 1600 Hours

For further details, please visit our website:
www.madrasfert.co.in or
<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
Corrigendum, if any, will be issued in the above websites only

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 01-DY.CE/CN/MAS/08-2019
Dated : 27.09.2019

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple bank's net-banking, debit card and credit card.

Name of the Work: MAS - GDR Section - Proposed Construction of Pedestrian subway of size 3.00m x 2.50m (inner dimension) between Nandiyambakkam and Minjur station.	Approximate cash value ₹	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Cost of tender Form ₹	Period of Completion	Closing Date @15.00 hrs.
	25823430	279100	10000/-	12 Months	21.10.2019

For further details, please refer to website portal www.ireps.gov.in or contact office of Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Chennai-3.

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
"A MINI RATNA COMPANY"

E-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No: SECL/BSP/CMC/e-Tender/348, date 26.09.2019 , Tender ID: 2019_SECL_151082_1, Estimated Cost: Rs. 42,79,14,526.24 (Without GST), Description of Work: Design, Engineering, Construction, fabrication, supply, trial run, commissioning of 2 no 2x16MVA, 33KV/6.6KV & 2x6.3MVA, 33/6.6-3.3KV and 1 no 2x16MVA, 33KV/6.6 KV Sub Station at Kusmunda OCP of Kusmunda Area on Turnkey basis including maintenance during Defect Liability Period of four years. Kusmunda, Tehsil-Kaithora, District-Korba (CG). Date & Time Pre-Bid Meeting: 18.10.2019 at 11.00 hrs. Start date&time for submission of bid: 28.10.2019, at 10.00 hrs, Last date &time for submission of bid: 27.11.2019, at 17.00 hrs, Date & Time for opening of bid: 29.11.2019 at 11.00 hrs.

GM(CMC) SECL,Bilaspur

Note : For details and submission of bid please visit website CPP www.eprocure.gov.in, and e-procurement portal of CIL <https://coalliantenders.nic.in> & www.secl-cil.in. In case of any misprinting/ error, details as per website document will be considered as final.

COAL : PRIME SOURCE OF ENERGY

22870/9

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 32-CECNMS-19-20-MB-25
Dated : 26.09.2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple bank's net-banking, debit card and credit card.

Name of the Work: Gauge conversion in Madurai - Bodinayakanur section: Mobile flash butt welding of 60kg / 52kg Rail joints (RDSO approved firms should only apply, (Balance works)

Approximate cash value ₹	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Cost of tender Form ₹	Period of Completion in months	Closing Date @15.30 hrs.
66340000	481700	10000	FIVE	22.10.2019

For further details, please refer to website portal www.ireps.gov.in or contact office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Chief Engineer, Construction, Egmore, Chennai-8.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 01-DY.CE/CN/MAS/07-2019
Dated : 27.09.2019

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple bank's net-banking, debit card and credit card.

Name of the Work: Construction Organisation - Chief Administrative Office Headquarters - Chennai Egmore Hiring of Road vehicle for the Official use of Officers of Construction Organisation.

Approximate cash value ₹	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Cost of tender Form ₹	Period of Completion	Closing Date @15.00 hrs.
12882208	214400	5000/-	24 Months	18.10.2019

For further details, please refer to website portal www.ireps.gov.in or contact office of Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Chennai-3.

Johnson offers Brexit ‘compromise’ to EU

Prime Minister says U.K. will leave the grouping by October 31; promises that there won't be checks at the Irish border

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANCHESTER

The U.K. offered the European Union a proposed Brexit deal on Wednesday that it said represents a compromise for both sides, as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged the bloc to hold “rapid negotiations towards a solution” after years of wrangling.

In a letter to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, Mr. Johnson said that not reaching a deal by the U.K.'s scheduled October 31 departure date would be “a failure of statecraft for which we would all be responsible.” Mr. Johnson has vowed to leave on October 31 with or without a Brexit deal.

The proposals focus is on maintaining an open border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland – the key sticking point

to a Brexit deal. The U.K. proposes to do that by keeping Northern Ireland closely aligned to EU rules for trade in goods, possibly for an extended period.

The proposal involves “an all-island regulatory zone on the island of Ireland, covering all goods including agri-food.” That would keep Northern Ireland in a regulatory zone with the EU for food, agricultural and industrial products, removing the need for checks, but the EU will carefully study the details. The status has no time limit though it would have to be renewed every four years by the Northern Ireland government, Mr. Johnson said.

Under the plan there would still need to be customs checks, but Mr. Johnson suggested in his letter that they could be done away from the border at “other points on the supply chain.”



Give-and-take deal: U.K. PM Boris Johnson delivering a speech at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. **AP**

Mr. Juncker gave the proposals a guarded welcome and said the two sides would negotiate over the coming days.

‘Final offer’
The submission of formal proposals followed a speech by Mr. Johnson to Conservative Party members at their annual conference. It was billed by his office as a take-

it-or-leave-it “final offer” to the EU. Yet as delivered, it was more like a plea to the bloc, and to Britons, to end more than three years of wrangling over the terms of the U.K.'s exit from the EU.

“Let’s get Brexit done,” was the repeated refrain to delegates.

British voters in 2016 narrowly chose to leave the EU but the country remains

Johnson set to suspend Parliament from Oct. 8
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson intends to ask for Parliament to be suspended from October 8 to 14, his office said on Wednesday, after a previous attempt was ruled unlawful. The prorogation is to “enable logistical preparations for Queen Elizabeth II to outline the government’s new legislative programme”. **AFP**

deeply divided over how to do it. In his speech, Mr. Johnson said people who voted for Brexit “are beginning to feel that they are being taken for fools.”

With Britain’s delayed departure from the bloc due on October 31, Mr. Johnson said the government was sending “constructive and reasonable proposals” to the EU. But the plan is likely to face skepticism from EU leaders, who doubt the U.K. has a workable solution to avoid checks on goods or people crossing the Irish border.

A Brexit agreement between the EU and Mr. Johnson’s predecessor, Theresa May, was rejected three times by the U.K. Parliament, largely because of opposition to the “backstop,” an insurance policy designed to ensure there is no return to customs posts or other infrastructure on the Irish border.

Mr. Johnson insisted that “we will under no circumstances have checks at or near the border in Northern Ireland.”

Ireland, however, voiced doubts about Britain’s new plans. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said the proposals “do not fully meet the agreed objectives of the backstop”.

It’s not an impeachment probe, it’s a coup: Trump

Pompeo slams it as an intimidation bid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has denounced the impeachment inquiry threatening his presidency as a “coup,” as his administration pushed back against the investigation.

Mr. Trump’s comments came after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo vowed to prevent or delay five State Department officials from testifying in the investigation probing accusations that Mr. Trump abused his office by seeking dirt from Ukraine on a 2020 election rival.

“As I learn more and more each day, I am coming to the conclusion that what is taking place is not an impeachment, it is a COUP,” Mr. Trump tweeted.

It is “intended to take away the Power of the People, their VOTE, their Freedoms, their Second Amendment, Religion, Military, Border Wall, and their God-given rights.”

Mr. Pompeo, meanwhile, accused three Democratic House committee heads conducting the impeachment inquiry of “an attempt to intimidate, bully and treat improperly the distinguished professionals of the Department of State.”

Bid to obstruct probe
But Democrats accused the top U.S. diplomat of “stonewalling” the investigation and, according to media reports, scheduled interviews with at least two of the diplomats who both had direct involvement in the Ukraine matter.

It was the first major clash of the impeachment probe, pointing to a mounting political and legal siege as Mr. Trump battles to save his presidency.



Donald Trump

Mr. Trump faces the possibility of becoming only the third President ever impeached by Congress, which could lead to his going on trial in the Senate.

Democrats decided last week to seek impeachment after a whistleblower complaint, supported by a White House call transcript, showed Mr. Trump pressuring Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to supply him with politically useful information on Democratic former Vice-President Joe Biden, who is the most likely Democrat to challenge Mr. Trump’s reelection bid next year.

The first move of the three powerful House Democrats – Adam Schiff of the Intelligence Committee, Eliot Engel of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Elijah Cummings of the Oversight Committee – was to subpoena Mr. Pompeo and Mr. Trump’s private lawyer Rudy Giuliani for documents and to summon the five diplomats to testify.

News reports said the State Department’s former special envoy to Ukraine, Kurt Volker, would testify on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump got support from Russia’s President Vladimir Putin, who said he saw “nothing compromising” in the conversation.

Nine dead as thousands protest in Iraq

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGHDAD

Popular protests multiplied across Iraq on Wednesday as thousands of demonstrators braved live fire and tear gas in rallies that have left nine dead in 24 hours.

The demonstrations led authorities to seal off the Green Zone in Baghdad and have posed the first major challenge to Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi. He has blamed the violence on “aggressors” among the protesters.

Since erupting in Baghdad on Tuesday, the protests have spread to other cities.

Anger mounts in Hong Kong after teen is shot at

Office workers and high-school students took to the streets in protest against the police action

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Hong Kong office workers and high-school students turned out in their hundreds under a sweltering midday sun on Wednesday to denounce a policeman for shooting and wounding a teenager during the most violent clashes in nearly four months of unrest.

The office workers gathered in Chater Garden in the Central business district as the students, some in the same class as the wounded 18-year-old, demonstrated outside his New Territories school.

More than 100 people were wounded during Tuesday’s



Rising tensions: Protesters near the site where the police shot a protester in Hong Kong on Tuesday. **REUTERS**

day’s turmoil, the Hospital Authority said, as anti-China demonstrators took to the streets across the Chinese-ruled territory, throwing petrol bombs and attacking

police who responded with tear gas and water cannon. Police made more than 180 arrests.

One officer responded by shooting the 18-year-old

school student in the chest with a live round after he came under attack with a metal bar, video footage shows. The teen was in stable condition on Wednesday.

Protesters outside the wounded student’s school, the Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu Memorial College, chanted “Free Hong Kong”, condemned the police and urged a thorough investigation.

“I really disappointed me and let me down about the policeman. I don’t know why they took this action to deal with a Form Five student. Why do you need to shoot? It’s a real gun,” said one 17-year-old student, who goes

to the same school.

Protesters have previously been hit with anti-riot beanbags rounds and rubber bullets, but this was the first time a demonstrator had been shot with a live round.

‘Acted in self-defence’
Police said the officer involved was under serious threat and acted in self-defence.

Tuesday’s protests, on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, were aimed at propelling the activists’ fight for greater democracy onto the international stage and embarrassing the city’s political leaders in Beijing.

Taliban delegation on its way as U.S. envoy holds talks in Pak.

‘Zalmay Khalilzad’s visit is not to resume Afghan peace plan’

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

The Taliban announced on Wednesday they are sending a high-level delegation to Pakistan’s capital as part of a tour that has included Russia, China and Iran in a push to resurrect an Afghanistan peace deal with Washington that seemed imminent just a month ago.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a co-founder of the Taliban and head of their political office in Qatar, will lead the 11-member delegation during talks with Pakistani officials in Islamabad.

Zalmay Khalilzad, Washington’s special peace envoy,



Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar

is also in the Pakistani capital for “consultations” with the Pakistani leadership, a U.S. official said. He spent the last year negotiating a peace deal with the Taliban, which seemed imminent until Sept. 7 when U.S. Presi-

dent Donald Trump declared the deal “dead.”

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Khalilzad is not in Islamabad to resume the peace process.

Rather the U.S. peace envoy will follow up on discussions he held with Pakistani leaders, including Prime Minister Imran Khan, during the U.N. General Assembly session in New York.

It wasn’t immediately known if Mr. Khalilzad will meet with Taliban leader Baradar.

Mr. Trump ended peace talks after a series of Taliban attacks on the capital Kabul.

A year on, memorial held for Khashoggi

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISTANBUL

Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos joined activists and friends of Jamal Khashoggi near Saudi Arabia’s Consulate in Istanbul on Wednesday on the first-year anniversary of his horrific death at the hands of Saudi agents.

The memorial began just after 1-14 p.m. (1014 GMT), the time that Khashoggi walked into the consulate a year ago to collect documents for him to marry his Turkish fiancée, who was waiting for him outside. He never emerged.

Activists called for a comprehensive UN investigation into the murder and action.

Italy PM approved U.S. talks with secret services: report

Meet aimed to discredit claims of Trump-Russia link: report

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROME

Italy’s Prime Minister gave permission for a top U.S. official to meet Rome’s intelligence services as part of Trump-lead efforts to discredit claims he has ties with Russia, media reported on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte approved two meetings U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr held with spy chief Gennaro Vecchione, according to the *Corriere della Sera*, the country’s leading newspaper.

Mr. Barr has reportedly had multiple contacts with

officials and spies in Australia, Britain and Italy in a bid to investigate a probe, which concluded that Russia tried to swing the 2016 election in U.S. President Donald Trump’s favour.

He first travelled to Rome in August to gather information the White House hopes will undermine the probe, Italian media said.

He returned on Friday again to meet Mr. Vecchione just ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s trip to Italy’s capital.

Robert Mueller’s probe led to the conviction of several of Mr. Trump’s top aides

for obstruction and lying to investigators.

But ahead of the 2020 election, Mr. Trump has painted the investigation and its findings as a “deep state” conspiracy.

Mr. Barr reportedly asked the Italian secret services to hand over any information they have on Joseph Mifsud, a Maltese professor at a Rome university suspected by the Americans of being an Italian or British-run spy.

Mr. Mifsud is alleged to have promised Mr. Trump’s former campaign manager George Papadopoulos some dirt on Hillary Clinton.

ELSEWHERE

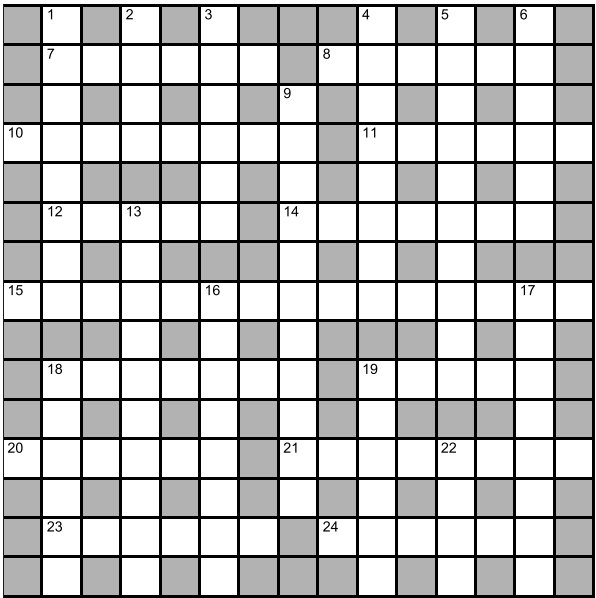


Sanders hospitalised, suspends campaign

WASHINGTON

U.S. presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders underwent an unexpected heart procedure on Tuesday for a blockage in an artery and cancelled campaign events for the White House until further notice, an adviser said. Mr. Sanders, 78, was in Las Vegas, for 2020 presidential campaign when he experienced discomfort and was taken to a hospital for evaluation. “He was found to have a blockage in one artery and two stents were successfully inserted... He is in good spirits,” Mr. Sanders’ senior adviser Jeff Weaver said. **REUTERS**

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12746



ACROSS

- 7 Illiterate under a strain (6)
- 8 Leaves covers? Left covers (6)
- 10 Die performing exploit (4,2,2)
- 11 NO PERSON possibly coming by, on being victim of rape? (6)
- 12 Need to say anything poetically? (5)

DOWN

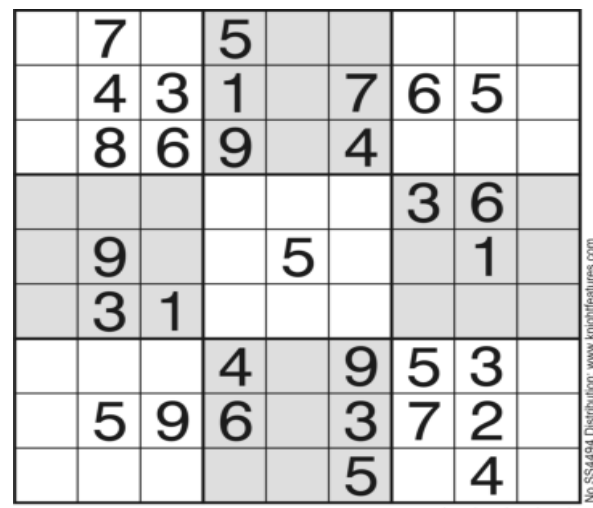
- 1 Dirty flue or a chimney, essentially a smoky vent (8)
- 2 This month’s no month to be playful (4)
- 3 Attraction of Twitter on the Web (6)

(set by xChequer)

- 14 Ordinary pulse and beat (7)
- 15 Halt vehicle, run back to place rocks in ditch (5,2,3,5)
- 18 Somewhat rich, extremely pricy this victory (7)
- 19 Notice in Brazilian port: ‘In need of ham’ (5)
- 20 Wobble with vessel for teetotaler, a pitcher? (6)
- 21 Bullet missing the mark, but close (5,3)
- 23 Powerful threat breaking resistance (6)
- 24 American people short-changed in this city? (6)

- 4 Elaborate on cub getting Queen’s honour and toffee (8)
- 5 Diamond bearing rock, coarse, getting crushed (4,6)
- 6 When chimney stacks start to yaw, find refuge (6)
- 9 Forward theocrats confused regarding the subject under discussion (2,4,5)
- 13 Revisit ego trips for cause (4,4,2)
- 16 Detain her entourage to arrest native (8)
- 17 Start to clear section of yard filled with scrap, and plant (8)
- 18 This side of stage feeding play in part? (6)
- 19 Inconvenience when short of time and money (6)
- 22 Idiot with intelligence? (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12745

B	C	A	H	W	L	C		
Y	O	G	A	S	O	U	T	H
E	R	K	N	I	T	N		
B	R	U	N	E	I	D	E	P
I	C	T	E	D				
S	T	R	U	G	G	L	E	
R	B							
M	A	H	A	T	M	A		
S	N	E	A	K	S			
G	I	F	O					
B	L	O	C					
Y	A	S	F	S	S	L		

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

9	3	4	5	8	6	7	2	1
7	8	5	1	4	2	3	6	9
1	6	2	7	9	3	4	8	5
6	4	9	2	7	8	5	1	3
5	2	3	6	1	9	8	7	4
8	1	7	4	3	5	6	9	2
4	5	1	9	6	7	2	3	8
2	7	8	3	5	1	9	4	6
3	9	6	8	2	4	1	5	7

FAITH

Ahimsa, the highest dharma

All faiths and sastras in one voice hail ahimsa as the sole pride of humanitarian society and hence advice people to uphold it in their individual and social contexts, pointed out Swami Omkarananda in a discourse. It fosters all good virtues in people and inspires them towards righteous living. The essence of ahimsa is absence of hatred which is the cause of all evil.

Ahimsa makes one see all objects in creation including ourselves as God’s possession. The motto is to be compassionate towards one and all. The Lord exemplifies this compassion towards all aspects of His creation and especially when He incarnates time and again to establish dharma, destroy evil and protect the good. For instance, in the long drawn fight Soorapadman wages against Muruga, the asura is deluded by the alternating visions of the Lord as a young boy and of His Viswarupa darshan.

Finally the Lord establishes the value of enduring love when Soorapadman is not killed but is merely transformed into a cock which adorns the Lord’s flag and a peacock that becomes His mount. Spreading the message of love is the antidote for hatred. All calamities are caused by hatred as it spurs disunity leading to inflicting pain and destruction. Hatred colours one judgment and causes wrong notions and can ruin one’s character very easily. One has to be cautious of the tendency to misunderstand ideas and concepts, for, when once ingrained, it becomes very hard to unlearn them. The Gita shows that true Sanyasa embodies ahimsa. When one renounces worldly possessions and opts to live the life of a recluse, it indicates that none need fear such a person. Ahimsa is a penance that does not kill even as it does not encourage one to speak ill of others at any cost.

‘Firms opting for new lower tax can’t claim MAT credit’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Wednesday said companies opting for the lower corporate tax rate of 22% will not be allowed to reduce their tax liability by claiming deductions towards additional depreciation and Minimum Alternative Tax (MAT) credits.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), in a clarification, said companies will be allowed to utilise such credits only against regular taxes under the old regime and may opt for lower corporate tax regime in the subsequent assessment years.

There is no timeline before which the option under newly-inserted 115BAA in the Income Tax Act can be exercised, it added.

Under Section 115BAA, it was stated that companies opting for lower tax rate of 22% will not be allowed to claim any deduction or exemption. It gave the companies right to exercise the option before furnishing the income tax return. It was also stipulated that the option, once exercised, cannot be withdrawn in subsequent years.

The section does not give any timeline for companies to opt for the new regime of lower tax rate.

The CBDT said, “a domestic company which would exercise option for availing benefit of lower tax rate under section 115BAA shall not be allowed to claim set off of any brought forward loss on account of additional depreciation for an assessment year for which the option has been exercised and for any subsequent assessment year.”

PMC’s suspended MD says auditors did ‘superficial’ job

‘Due to time constraints, auditors checked only incremental advances’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The suspended managing director of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, Joy Thomas, has blamed the auditors for the mess at the bank, accusing them of only “superficially auditing” the books of the now crippled lender due to “time constraints.”

In a five-page letter to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) dated September 21 after a board member blew the lid on the fraud at PMC, which is among the top ten urban cooperative banks, Mr. Thomas has confessed to the role of the top management, including a few board members, in hiding the actual



In a whirlpool: Joy Thomas has not named any auditor in the letter. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

NPA numbers and also the actual exposure to the bankrupt HDIL, which is stated to be around ₹6,500 crore or over 73% of its total loan book of ₹8,880 crore. While Mr. Thomas has not named

any auditor in the letter that PTI has reviewed, according to its annual report for FY19, the bank has had three auditors – Lakdawala & Co, Ashok Jayesh & Associates and DB Ketkar & Co since FY11.

Bharat 22 ETF Further Fund Offer opens today

Subscriptions during offer period to get 3% discount

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Further Fund Offer 2 (FFO 2) of Bharat 22 Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF), which is part of the government’s divestment programme, will open for subscription on Wednesday for anchor investors and on Thursday for non-anchor investors.

The ETF, which will be managed by ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company, intends to raise up to ₹2,000 crore with an option to retain oversubscription, stated a release by the mutual fund entity.

An open-ended ETF, the

The fund has the highest representation from industrials at 21.8%

fund allows investors to invest in a basket of government-owned and private sector entities like NTPC, Power Grid Corporation, ONGC, Indian Oil Company, State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, L&T, ITC, Axis Bank and BPCL, among others.

In terms of sector weightages, the fund has the highest representation from industrials at 21.8%, followed by financials at 21.1%. Utilities has a weightage of 20.9% in the fund with energy and

FMCG at 18.1% and 14.3%, respectively

The FFO is open for all categories of investors with the minimum application amount for retirement funds and qualified institutional buyers in the anchor category pegged at ₹10 crore.

Non-anchor category

For retail investors that can apply in the non-anchor category, the minimum application size has been fixed at ₹5,000 with the upper limit capped at ₹2 lakh. Further, all investor categories subscribing during the FFO period will get 3% discount on the reference price.

ICAI to check auditors’ role in PMC imbroglio

Writes to bank, regulatory agencies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The apex body for chartered accountants, ICAI, has sought information from the RBI and other authorities on the PMC Bank crisis to check whether any auditor was involved in the alleged financial irregularities at the lender.

Taking note of the ‘enormity of the matter’, the ICAI on Wednesday said it had triggered its disciplinary mechanism and has written to the bank as well as regulatory agencies concerned.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has written to the Vigilance Department of the RBI and the Commissioner of Maharashtra Co-operative Societies.

In a statement, the insti-



tute said it had sought requisite details of their findings as well as that of any “member/firm alleged to be involved in the matter.” Information has also been sought from the statutory auditor of the bank “pertaining to financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19,” it added.

“ICAI will be actively pursuing the issue with the concerned regulators” it said.

Share sale by RNAM at ‘dismal prices’ irks Yes Bank promoter group

Reliance Nippon AMC sold 10 cr. shares, or 3.92% stake, in Yes Bank on Tuesday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Morgan Credits Pvt. Ltd. (MCPL) and Yes Capital, part of the promoter group of Yes Bank, expressed their disappointment over Reliance Nippon Asset Management Company (RNAM) selling pledged shares of the lender at a ‘dismal price’ on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Milestone Trusteeship Services sold 10 crore shares of Yes Bank at ₹35.29 apiece. On July 22, Rana Kapoor, the former MD and CEO of Yes Bank and also the co-founder, had pledged 10 crore shares with



Rana Kapoor

Milestone Trusteeship Services.

“To our extreme disappointment, we were informed late yesterday, [Oc-

tober 1], that Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management Company vide the appointed trustee Milestone had invoked and sold our balance pledged promoters shares for MCPL in the open market. These shares were pledged by our father, Mr. Rana Kapoor, to support the borrowing of MCPL, a company owned by his three daughters for investing in start-up ventures in our capacity as women entrepreneurs,” a joint statement from MCPL and Yes Capital said.

“We are highly dejected that our family sharehold-

ings in Yes Bank were sold at such dismal price levels,” it added.

The statement further said the total prepayments to RNAM by MCPL are about ₹1,145 crore, well before the due date of April 2021.

Yes Bank shares tanked almost 23% on Tuesday.

In a separate statement, Yes Bank said Tuesday’s fall in share price was primarily due to ‘forced sale’ of 10 crore shares – which was 3.92% of the bank’s total equity share capital – by an invocation of pledge of equity shares of a large shareholder.

‘Cutting off power in an accident is key in EVs’

Bosch’s devices prevent car occupants, rescuers from suffering electric shock

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

With a rising number of electric vehicles (EVs) expected to hit the road in the coming years, drivers are increasingly becoming uncertain about safety measures, especially as to what they should do in the event of a collision.

Damaged cables as the result of an accident are a cause for concern, as is the power from the battery that could leak into the metal bodywork of a hybrid or all-electric car. Germany’s Bosch has introduced innovative devices that can prevent electric shock when EVs are involved in accidents.

It has designed semiconductors that help prevent the risk of electric shock after an accident. These specially designed microchips deactivate the vehicle’s power circuits in a fraction of a



second, to ensure the personal safety of vehicle occupants and the rescue crew.

Jens Fabrowsky, member of the executive management, Bosch’s Automotive Electronics Division, said, “Our semiconductor technology plays a vital role in the safety of hybrid and electric vehicles. Bosch supplies vehicle manufacturers with semiconductor chips for [use] in special systems that

safely disconnect the battery in the event of a collision.”

These devices are part of a pyrotechnical safety switch system, or pyrofuse. They “blow out” whole sections of the cable connection to the high-voltage battery by means of miniature explosive charges, thus quickly and effectively shutting off the power circulation.

Tiny, powerful devices

For example, if the airbag sensor detects an impact, the tiny devices – measuring no more than 10 mm by 10 mm and weighing a few grams – trigger the pyrofuse.

This sets off little explosions that drive a wedge into the high-voltage cable between the battery unit and the power electronics, disconnecting the two. By thus cutting off the flow of power, the risk of electric shock or

fire is fully eliminated.

Lithium-ion batteries, the power source for all-electric vehicles, are flammable, said Malcolm McConnell, a lead attorney at Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen, a personal injury law firm based in the U.S.

“They contain a liquid electrolyte that stores energy and can overheat and combust with prolonged exposure to the wrong conditions. These power cells are also subject to short-circuiting if they are damaged, and those short-circuits can result in fires if the proper safety precautions are not in place,” he said.

However, most EVs are structurally safer than conventional cars. Because, they have fewer components needed to run the car, meaning less wear and tear and less space used within the infrastructure of the vehicle.

DLF settles ₹8,700-crore dues with JV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Realty major DLF has settled the entire ₹8,700 crore amount payable to DLF Cyber City Developers Ltd. (DCCDL), its joint venture with Singapore-based GIC, by transferring various completed commercial properties and land parcels as well as cash payment.

With settlement of these dues, the company said it has completed the exercise of transforming its balance sheet and consolidation of all rental assets under the DCCDL.

DLF holds 67% stake in DCCDL, while Singapore’s sovereign wealth fund GIC holds 33%.

At end 2018, DLF owed ₹8,700 crore to DCCDL and the amount payable came down to ₹5,600 crore by July 1, 2019.

Parle eyes ₹100 cr. via Rol.a.Cola candy relaunch

Firm targets 5 lakh stores in 6 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Biscuits and confectionery major Parle Products expects its Rol.a.Cola candy to clock sales of ₹100 crore, accounting for 10% of its overall turnover in the first 12 months of relaunching the brand in India after a gap of 13 years, according to a senior company official.

Parle Products, which had discontinued the hard-boiled candy with cola flavour in 2006 during a product rationalisation process, is bringing the brand back based on consumer response on social media.

“A brand comeback based on consumer demand using social media interaction as a platform is a very significant one in the marketing of Parle Products... In the short term, we should be able to achieve around 200 tonnes



Parle is relaunching the brand based on consumer response. ■ REUTERS

a month in sales (of Rol.a.Cola),” Parle Products senior category head marketing Krishna Rao said.

“Overall, in the first year of relaunch of Rol.a.Cola, we are targeting around ₹100 crore of sales from it,” Mr. Rao said. “We are looking at reaching at least five lakh stores in the first six months,” he added.

IndiGo’s Bhatia seeks arbitration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

IndiGo promoters – InterGlobe Enterprises and Rahul Bhatia – have sought arbitration proceedings in London against the back-drop of differences with co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal.

In a filing with the stock exchanges, InterGlobe Aviation said the two entities have submitted a request for arbitration on October 1 to the London Court of International Arbitration.

InterGlobe Aviation is the parent of IndiGo, India’s largest airline in terms of domestic market share. The request has been submitted under the shareholders’ agreement, dated April 23, 2015.

The agreement was amended on September 17, 2015, the filing said.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

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BOOK ONLINE

The engagement of Indian art with Gandhi did not end with the country's Partition or its Independence, because the attacks on his legacy of non-violence have never stopped



Marching on (clockwise from left) Riyaz Komu's Gandhi from Kochi series, Ghulam Mohammed Sheikh's Ahmedabad: The City Gandhi Left Behind, Nandalal Bose's Dandi march linocut

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ashram at Kochrab which Gandhi founded in 1915 on his return from South Africa – two years later, he was asked to shift from there for the ‘crime’ of inviting a Dalit family to stay with him. The other building is Hriday Kunj, Gandhi’s home in the Sabarmati Ashram where he remained until 1930, before setting out on his historic Dandi March vowing to return only after Swaraj had been achieved.

Gandhi is invisible in this work. Elsewhere, Sheikh paints him at the edge of the canvas. “Gandhi identified with the poor and marginalised, the migrants and refugees and there were times when he became an outcast himself, because of some of the radical positions he took. But he never stopped experimenting with the truth,” says Sheikh.

Beauty in truth

Kochi-based painter and sculptor Riyaz Komu is convinced that disruptive action is sometime necessary to ‘see beauty in truth’ which leads to the creation of art. “For Gandhi, action itself was the way of imagining. My art is all about imaging and imagining a more compassionate and inclusive world, accommodating of different political ideologies and religious practices as opposed to the oppressive and divisive one we inhabit at this moment.”

In the 2015 ‘Gandhi from Kochi’ series of paintings, inspired by a 1931 photograph, he is shown against a revolutionary red background. “The government of the day in Kerala found the painting offensive, because it appeared to project Gandhi as a communist,” says Komu, adding that for him, growing up the son of a Gandhian who was also Leftist, it was the normal way of reading Gandhi.

As art continues to seek new ways of showing Gandhi, historian Tridip Suvrind reminds us that the walls of his home, Hriday Kunj, were bare. When asked why, the Mahatma had replied, “There are two aspects of things: the outward and the inward. It is purely a matter of emphasis with me. The outward has no meaning except in so far as it helps the inward.”

SHIKHA TRIVEDY

In 1930, Nandalal Bose, painter and principal of Kala Bhavan, Shantiniketan, composed a linocut of Gandhi walking resolutely yet thoughtful and calm on his way to Dandi to make salt. “Gandhi transformed the Congress from a body of urban elites to a pan-Indian mass organization that appealed to Indians from all walks of life. Nandalal Bose recognised that this shift offered a new role for the artist – that of a participant in nation building,” says R. Sivakumar, Professor of Art History at Kala Bhavan in Shantiniketan.

If Bose rendered the Gandhi of the Dandi March, his younger associate, Ramkinkar Baij represented the Gandhi of Noakhali in his sculptures, walking barefoot with head lowered, through the stench of religious hatred, pleading for calm. “If Gandhi at Dandi symbolised a nation’s resurgent self-assurance, at Noakhali he was the saddened and lonely, yet invincible, an apostle of Peace striding across the graveyard,” says Sivakumar.

After independence, artists have continued in their attempts to capture the mahatma’s *deh* (body) and *antaryami* (inner voice) through multiple narratives emerging from his life – political, religious, and spiritual.

The ’50s and beyond

M.F. Husain’s 1954 masterpiece, ‘Zameen’ taking a leaf from Gandhi’s book, whole-heartedly embraced a day in the life of our diverse country, from which the

with the Mahatma



artist was driven out by in 2006. Jitish Kallat’s 2012 installation, ‘Covering Letter’, revisited a piece of historic correspondence in which Gandhi appealed for peace to Adolf Hitler in 1939, just days before the start of the World War II. Projected on to a traversable curtain of dry fog, the Letter, believes Kallat, “speaks as much to the present as to the past.”

Atul Dodiya constructed ‘Broken Branches’ in 2002 as nine wooden cabinets in which objects

of hope and despair – bones, prosthetic limbs, tools of destruction and re-building, photographs of Gandhi – come together to capture the tumultuous decade between 1992 when the Babri Masjid was demolished in Ayodhya, leading up to the Gujarat violence of 2002.

In ‘Ahmedabad: The City Gandhi Left Behind’ a massive monochrome by Vadodara-based artist Ghulam Mohammed Sheikh made in 2002, a burning autorickshaw

becomes the metaphor for the Gujarat riots. Five personal objects of daily use which defined Gandhi’s asceticism were auctioned in 2009: a pair of sandals, pocket watch, plate, bowl and the round spectacles he said gave him the vision to see an independent India. These are randomly placed by Sheikh in a *pol* or housing cluster in the heart of Ahmedabad.

The only two buildings the artist picks out on the city map from Google Earth are the Satyagraha

ABHISHEK GULSHAN

The Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyceus birostris*) is a fairly common hornbill species found only in the Indian subcontinent. It is a medium-sized hornbill with a beak to tail length of about 50 cm, but one of the larger conspicuous birds we may see in our backyards.

With a brownish-grey body, a long black-and-white tipped tail, and red eyes, it has a signature heavy curved blackish-yellow beak surmounted by a casque (a protuberance of sorts). Unlike a lot of other birds, the male and female look similar, though the females have a smaller casque.

These birds are known to be arboreal, i.e. spend most of their time on tall trees, but may descend for food and to collect mud pellets for nesting. They feed on fruits and berries from fig trees, insects, reptiles (snakes, lizards), small birds (mostly fledglings) but on occasion can go after slightly bigger adult birds as well.

They play an essential role in the ecosystem as prime dispersers of seeds. In cities, we may find

IN OUR BACKYARD

THE FIG disperser

The Indian Grey Hornbill feeds on figs, and seals its nest with its own excreta that has fig seeds, thereby propagating the tree

Cavity seekers The Indian Grey Hornbill nests in large trees

■ ABHISHEK GULSHAN

them feeding on fig trees like banyan, Goolar (a variety of fig), usually choosing old tall dense trees for nesting. They are cavity nesters, making use of big hollows in trees as nesting sites.

They may excavate further to suit their needs and size. When they pair up, they keep a regular check on the chosen cavity, clean

it regularly and defend this space from other cavity nesters like common mynas and rose-ringed parakeets.

Their courtship and nesting lasts from March until July,

which covers most of the summer months and early monsoon, when food is never scarce. These birds get extremely vocal around this time with their long calls ‘shi...shi...shi’. During the courtship period, the males woo the females by constantly offering them fruits, lizards and other ‘delicacies’.

The pair is often involved in a lot of friendly aerial jousting and bill grappling and passing of food to commemorate their togetherness, slowly leading the females to the nest cavity.

During the nesting period, the female seals itself in a large hole of a tree by building a wall with its excreta (with visible fig seeds) and mud-pellets, provided by the male, leaving only a narrow slit open. The male will offer food through the slit, as she will not leave this cavity for the next two to three months. Later, when the juve-

niles mature and the female comes out of the nest, both parents cater to the needs of the juveniles together. We need to observe from a distance, so we don’t disturb the nest, even to take a picture.

Once the juveniles are capable of leaving the nest, other common birds like mynas, parakeets and sometimes owls, occupy these cavities for themselves.

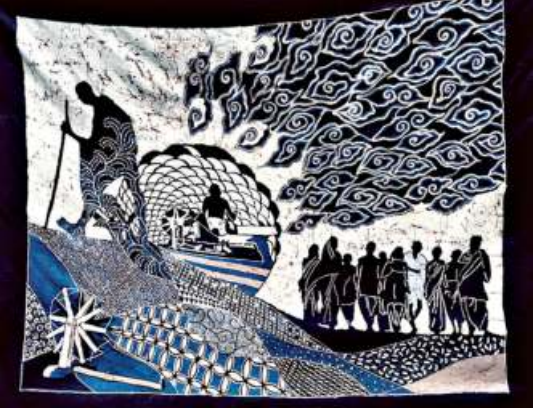
These gentle giants are threatened primarily by habitat loss in the city and the cutting down of large trees, which is important for both food and nesting. We must protect the natural heritage of our city by conserving these old beneficial trees around our houses and avoid planting ornamental ones, which may take up more ground water and simply don’t have the space for cavity nesters that help the urban ecosystem.

The writer is the founder of NINOX - Owl About Nature, a nature-awareness initiative. He is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds. He formerly led a programme at WWF India.

PLACES

Gandhi lives on

Craftspeople from across the country weave Bapu into their wares



An eight day long exhibition titled “An Ode to the Mahatma Gandhi” showcases Gandhi on his 150th birthday, in unique ways. The spotlight is on craftspeople, often cut off from mainstream society, who have gone out of their comfort zones to create designs they don’t usually dabble in.

Under the aegis of the Dastkari Haat Samiti, the craftspeople were given artistic freedom to showcase Gandhi through their craft. They were to depict either an image or a symbolical metaphor to represent him. “For these brilliant karigars, this has been a labour of love. Their exhibits aren’t for sale, but visitors can directly interact with artisans and learn how they can procure them. This is a non-profit initiative. All these karigars need is a platform that backs them to exhibit their crafts,” said Jaya Jaitley, the founder and president of the Samiti. In the tribute are 25 works of art: handloom weaving, tie and dye work, Shibori, batik.

Amrita Choudhary, who runs Disha Shekhawati, an NGO empowering women artisans so they can earn a livelihood and be freed from the cycle of domestic abuse and other evils, says traditional Bandhini was practised in the Shekhawati region over the past 500 years. “However, now Shibori has become one of the favourites of this region. I searched for it on the Internet and Roshni Bano from Sujangarh acted as a good Samaritan. She taught us the nuances of this Japanese technique.”

The NGO portrayed Gandhiji in Nui Shibori. “Our women artisans have depicted Gandhiji with his signature charkha, spectacles, walking with his stick. Each work (in mulberry, tussar and Chanderi silk) took us three days to wrap.”

Similarly, Mohammad Tahir, whose family has been working with wooden sculptures for generations in Farukhabad in U.P, portrayed Gandhi in his sculpture. It can be used as a wall-hanging or placed on a stand. “Creating Gandhi’s face was a time consuming process. I also had to create wooden spectacles in order to make my work look realistic. My depiction of Gandhiji has fine engraving and straight lines.”

Khad’s future is intact as it has evolved into modern sustainable fashion, says Kartik Manna, who used batik to portray Gandhi. “Gandhiji’s ideals will live on forever. Through this picture, I have tried to depict his immortality and his ideas,” he says. Batik was brought to India by Rabindranath Tagore from Indonesia and there is the Indonesian influence in the sky. “The imagery of the sun portrays the idea that Gandhiji’s philosophy is spreading.”

There are also some items to shop: thread jewellery from Uttarakhand; silver jewellery from Rajasthan. bead work and papier mache from M.P.

At IGNCa, 11, Man Singh Road, October 8, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

MADHUR TANKHA

PAGES

A Gandhi guide



Aptly opening with Mahatma Gandhi’s quote “My life is my message”, this new Puffin book by Arthy Muthanna Singh and Mamta Nainy, illustrated by Aniruddha Mukherjee and Charulata Mukherjee, traces the arc of the leader’s life through 150 anecdotes. Every nugget, occupying a page each (like: Owning Up, Experiments with Eating Meat, A Weekly Day of Silence), details incidents that shaped the person that the Father of the Nation grew to become. The book also has a family tree, and a helpful list of museums and memorials on the Mahatma that one can visit across the country.

Available across stores and Penguin.co.in; ₹299

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



ART

Material moments

Art Alive Gallery presents Moments and Transformation: Finding Life in Materiality, a group art show comprising seven artists from Chennai and Puducherry. Curated by Ashrafi S. Bhagat, the exhibition showcases their works through engagements with different materials, mediums and techniques.

VENUE: Art Alive Gallery, S-221, Panchsheel Park
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FOOD

Navratri thali

Kiyan, a restaurant, is offering a special thali for Navratri. It includes a wide range of dishes – Badam ki Tikki, Kafir Lime Paneer Tikka, Paneer Bhujia, Khattha Meetha Petha, Chironji ki Dal, Moongphali ki Kadi, Samak Anardana Pulao, Green Apple and Mint Raita, Sabudana Papad and Kuttu Poori.

VENUE: The Roseate New Delhi, Samalkha
TIME: 12 noon - 2:45 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Mixed media

The ongoing exhibition called The Golden Bird is an international group art show, organised with an aim to provide a platform for both established and upcoming talented artists. Curated by Erum Khan, the show features paintings, sculptures, photography, and highlights the participating artists’ distinct styles and their choice of media.

VENUE: AIFACS, 1, Rafi Marg
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FOOD

Vrat special

Punjab Grill is joining the list of restaurants offering a special Navratri thali. The vrat thali will include dishes like Khasta Arvi Chat, Chironji ki Dal, Dahi wale Aloo, Kaddu ki Sabji, Aloo Singhara, Dahi Vada, Samak ka Rice, Sabudana Papad, Rajgira ki Puri and also desserts such as Kesari Rasmalai and Sabudana Kheer.

VENUE: Punjab Grill outlets in NCR
TIME: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.



EDUCATION

Interactive session

The annual interactive session of the British Boarding Schools Show is back for the second time. Organised with an objective to help Indian parents plan a UK-based education for their children, the show enables families living in India to gain direct access to the heads of some of the most prestigious schools across the U.K.

VENUE: The Oberoi, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg
TIME: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.



ONE FOR ALL
Visiting Switzerland's iconic hotspots and accessing the streamlined public transport lines are the best way to make the most of the nifty Swiss Travel Pass. The cost for which ranges from CHF 232 (for Second Class three days validity) to CHF 810 (for First Class 15-day validity). The SBB Mobile app is useful for digitally storing your Travel Pass, too, if you're not down to carrying one more thing in your surely-full backpack.



Pretty panoramas (From top left) Lake Lugano, at nightfall; the bell tower of Lugano cathedral overlooking the town; the Swiss Railways

known Coldesina, a local, iconic soda dating back to the 1880s. But to truly comprehend and appreciate the history of Switzerland, look at its biodiversity.

Through battle history
The three Neolithic Period castles in Bellinzona – Castelgrande, Montebello, and Sasso Corbaro – and their encompassing walls, which stand at overwhelming heights, were all declared by UNESCO as a single World Heritage Site in 2000, and rightfully so. Just a glance at these fortifications will have you searching for your armour and sword, as if you have taken a time machine into the past. Look closely at the walls and you will see distinct lines where new layers of stone were added atop the old, as various rulers transitioned, making it almost impenetrable.

There is a certain pull about Castelgrande and it intensifies as you proceed further into the depths of the dark bricks, the smell of aged parchment and rich wood emanating from within makes evidence of early human settlement clear. Anna explains the shift in lea-

Where the Swiss eat CARPACCIO

As Switzerland bundles up for the cooler months, there is a sun-drenched part of this country that offers scores of Italian history and culture. Here is how you can make the most of Ticino

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Between the snow-dusted mountains of the Alps, the Swiss Railways train races like a bolt of lightning. Phone camera at the ready, one cannot help but try their best to capture the postcard scenery as it zips past; but no technology can exactly reproduce the Swiss landscape peppered with little villages. For about seven minutes, though, passengers will find themselves heading at full throttle through a dark tunnel which is not unlike a portal; when the train emerges out of the other end, it is a whole new world with Mediterranean weather, clear skies, greenery dotted with daisies and the prettiest cows. Switzerland has a one-of-a-kind draw and one of the biggest

questions tourists often have when visiting – whether it is the first visit or the fourth – is around the cultural identity of Swiss people. Ask this, and you will get a fairly standard response: the Swiss' fingerprint comprises four cultural veins: German, French, Italian, and

IN PERSPECTIVE...
Ticino's exact area is 2812.46 square kilometres, over half of which is covered in forests. Plus, it would take 30 days to walk uninterrupted along the more than 3,600 kilometres of footpaths found in this canton.

Romansch. This is the result of a tumultuous history with neighbouring nations, which led to the now-mosaical multi-religious and multi-lingual communities. "The Italian-speaking region is worth a visit because of the extremely strong symbiosis between Italy and Switzerland, and it's seeing a growing interest among Indian travellers," says Ritu Sharma, deputy director, Switzerland Tourism. The proximity of the Ticino region to Italy will, in fact, have your roaming going haywire. One of the experts of the Ticino district is Anna Bezzola of experience and tour company Alps And Beyond. The academic and tour-pro resides in Bellinzona, which lies east of the sparkling Ticino river. "Bellinzona is one of the must-visit settlements in



Ticino," she recommends, "largely because it's so rich in history and it often makes you look at Switzerland in a different light. This place is steadily growing in tourism popularity but also promotes a stronger conversation around the heritage preservation". Of course, the restaurants in the surrounding area are more reflective of long-existing Italian inclinations. Aside from pizzas and pastas, we are talking plates of fresh tomatoes and thick slices of dripping mozzarella with beef carpaccio and peppery rocket. To cool off the Ticino way, guzzle down the well-

CORNER OF LUXURY
What's Switzerland without that luxurious touch? Anna Bezzola explains, "The settlement of Lugano, though, is a top fashion destination (offering the likes of Gucci and Cartier) for people who frequent the streets of Milan for a retail getaway but want to switch up the scene." The little lanes of Via Nassa are nestled under 270-metre porticoes, the architecture reminiscent of a much more ancient way of shopping in the 1800s, when people traded grains, candles and other basic groceries.

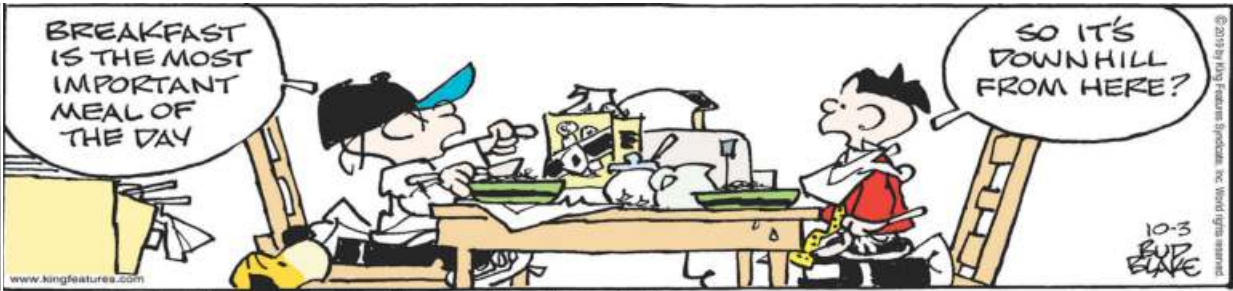
POOCH CAFE



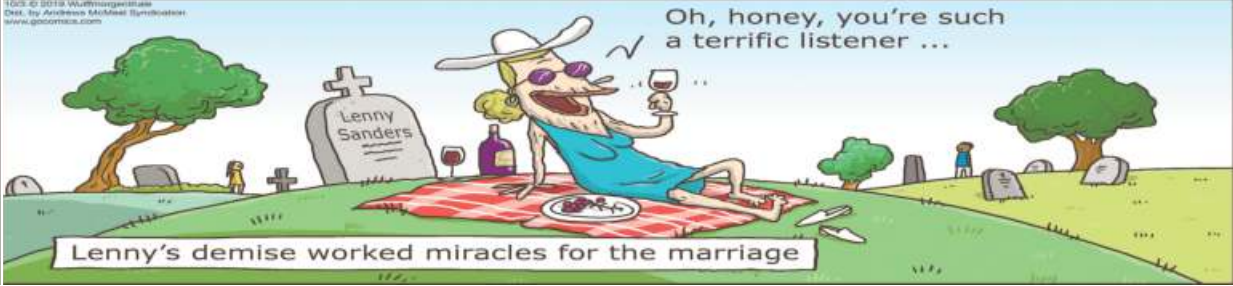
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



WUMO



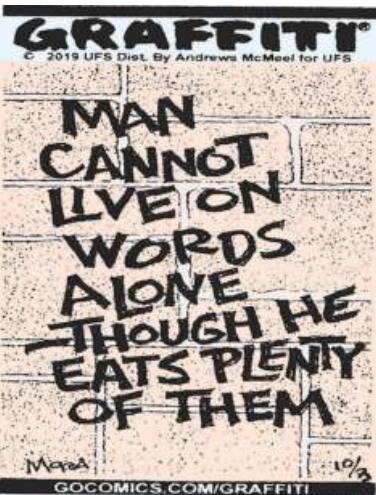
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



HEALTH CAPSULES
by Ben Smith
WHAT IS AN ENTERIC COATED TABLET?
I NEVER HEARD OF IT. ASK MY MOM... SHE ALREADY KNOWS.
ENTERIC-COATED TABLETS HAVE A POLYMER COATING THAT KEEPS THEM FROM DISSOLVING IN THE ACIDIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE STOMACH. THIS ALLOWS THEM TO DISSOLVE IN THE SMALL INTESTINE, WHERE THEY WILL BE ABSORBED INTO THE BLOODSTREAM.
Hardy Capsules is not a brand, it's a trademark.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13190

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- Across
1 Lower tidal part of a river (7)
8 Feeling such as joy, sorrow and fear (7)
9 Compulsive talkers (7)
10 Properly deserved (7)
11 Senior male figure in a profession (5)
13 Consciousness – ten nieces (anag) (9)
15 Group of convicts coupled together while working (5,4)
18 Underworld (5)
21 Very young child (4,3)
22 Difficult to find (7)
23 Last longer than scheduled (7)
24 Regarded with great apprehension (7)
■ Down
1 Moved slowly and cautiously (5)
2 Easily annoyed (5)

dership from Lombard to Carolingian and emphasises that the city truly thrived under the Milanese Visconti and Sforza dynasties.

Isole di Brissago
Follow the squawks of swans and the tunes of street musicians to the gem-hued Lake Maggiore. Peacefully located in the centre is Isole di Brissago, comprising two green-brimmed islands: Isola Grande, the larger island which is open to visitors. The foot traffic here is controlled, a reminder to visitors that the botanical garden's tranquillity is priority. Then there is Isola di Sant'Apollinare, the smaller island, which thrives in its natural, untouched state.

It is not just the prettiness of the islands that keeps the visitor-filled ferry boats leisurely going back and forth – it is the back-story of how Isole di Brissago came to be, which dates as far back as 1885 when Baron Richard and Baroness Antoinette Fleming de St Leger bought the islands in their raw states, including the ruins of a monastery. Over the years, until 1897, Baroness Antoinette breathed life into the islands, creating havens for tropical and sub-tropical plants from all over the globe, from Mediterranean spurges to the heath-leaved banksia from Australia. Plus, one can spot a bale of endangered turtles at a pond at the base of the villa's stairs, a hint at the ongoing fauna conservation on the island. However, in 1927, she had to sell the property due to wartime debts. German merchant Max Emden who was the next owner, developed the luxurious palatial estate which overlooks the lake. As of 1950, the islands officially belong to Canton Ticino, where resilient conversations around conservation, culture, science and tourism are held. Walk through the gardens and your phone battery and storage will take a hit, with you snapping picture after picture. The smells on the islands are also worth a meditative pause; they are an amalgam of fresh water, hundreds of species of blooming flowers, rich soils and the occasional dishes brought out to the *al fresco* dining area of the villa. The respect paid by visitors and backers towards Isole di Brissago is one for the books. (The writer was in Ticino, Switzerland at the invitation of Switzerland Tourism)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated October 4, 2019.
Solution No. 13189

A	B	S	T	I	N	E	N	T	L	H
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Proving his credentials: Rohit Sharma justified the team management's faith to back him as Test opener. ■K.R. DEEPAK

Rohit rains runs on opening debut before Nature takes over

His determined, unbeaten century puts India in a position of strength; Mayank proves an able ally; Proteas made to sweat

SA IN INDIA

S. DINAKAR
VISAKHAPATNAM

There is a maturity about Rohit Sharma these days that reflects a calmness of mind. And when this happens, the muscles are relaxed, the feet move freely and the focus is fierce.

Rohit had a lot riding on his innings on the opening day of the first Freedom Test here on Wednesday.

The team-management had backed him for the Test opener's slot and he had to justify the faith.

Resolute Mayank

Rohit responded with an unbeaten 115 of sunshine on a day of cloud cover and rain. Giving him support was a resolute Mayank Agarwal, batting on 84.

India was on a strong 202 for no loss shortly before tea at the ACA-VDCA Stadium before a goodly crowd when a sharp spell of rain ended play for the day.

For the beleaguered South Africans, this was a reprieve.

India's latest opening Test pair survived a testing early phase when Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander were a threat. There was some seam movement as well and both Rohit and Mayank were beaten.

Rohit, rightly, was circumspect at the start after Virat Kohli elected to bat. Once he found his timing, he was a different proposition.

Rabada was square-driven, and when Philander provided some width outside off, he was put away ruthlessly.

Rohit's bat-speed is his strength. When he combines this with nifty footwork and a still head, the bowlers are up against it in Indian conditions.

After 15 innings in 10 Tests [both unfinished] Rohit averages a Bradmanesque 98.22 in India. These figures reveal his dominance in these conditions and struggles on foreign soil.

His innings was laced with moments of brilliance. Like when Rohit eased Philander between short cover, extra-cover and the sweeper, stroking the ball gloriously through the eye of the needle.

Given the nature of his game, the bowlers were always in with a chance. His half-century came through a top-edged sweep off debutant left-arm spinner Senuran Muthusamy, eluding a diving square-leg.

Growing in confidence

Rohit grew in confidence; Rabada was pulled and spinners Keshav Maharaj and Dale Piedt were cut or rous-

ingly struck on the waltz between the straight-field and square-leg.

At the other end, Mayank combined a solid defence with clever strokeplay. Temperament is the lad's strength.

Mayank, in his first Test innings in India, was fortunate early on when he attempted to whip Rabada only to see the edge rocket between third slip and gully.

But the right-hander also essayed some compelling strokes.

A cover-drive off Rabada screamed for attention.

Philander was off-driven with ease and fluency. An inside-out six off Maharaj over covers revealed deftness of feet and timing.

Mayank is a vastly different batsman from what he was about three years back. Those were the days when he had a pronounced shuffle forward, and this, consequently, affected his balance, the most crucial ingredient of batting.

He also had trouble getting on to the back foot. The committed Mayank worked on that, curbed a tendency to hit balls on the up and was able to shift his weight to the rear foot. His rather elaborate back-lift also was now straighter.

Mentally stronger

Mayank became a lot tighter

on or around the off-stump and under the legendary Rahul Dravid emerged mentally stronger.

For South Africa, the lion-hearted Rabada operated with some speed and venom, but received little help from the pitch.

Philander, a lesser force once the ball lost its shine, was accurate but could not extract deviation after the initial overs.

Leader of the spin pack, Maharaj, was quicker through the air but there was not enough bite or turn in his bowling. Off-spinner Piedt, who doesn't quite get his body into his action, failed to impress.

Perhaps, South Africa should have included an additional paceman in Lungi Ngidi or Anrich Nortje for a third spinner and played to its strength irrespective of the surface.

The signs are ominous for the visitor.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Mayank Agarwal (batting) 84 (183b, 11x4, 2x6), Rohit Sharma (batting) 115 (174b, 12x4, 5x6); Extras (lb-1, nb-2): 3; Total (for no loss in 59.1 overs): 202.
SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Philander 11.1-2-34-0, Rabada 13-5-35-0, Maharaj 23-4-66-0, Piedt 7-1-43-0, Muthusamy 5-0-23-0.

Toss: India

Mentally I was ready to open: Rohit

Learnt from my first day that you need to compete every ball, says Muthusamy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Rohit Sharma revealed he had been "prepared" for the last two years to open in a Test for India.

He said after his unbeaten hundred — his fourth in Tests and first as an opener — here on Wednesday, "The talk was on for a long time about me opening the innings. In the West Indies they told me clearly that it's going to happen now. So mentally I was ready for it."

The graceful right-hander observed, "Opening the batting in red-ball cricket is a different ball game compared to limited overs. You have to train your mind more than anything else. Technically, yes, you have got to look into it, certain aspects of batting. I was clear what I wanted to do. There was no confusion in my mind."

Opening the innings in Tests was a huge opportunity for him, said Rohit.

"When you are playing international cricket, you al-



The perfect blend: Mayank Agarwal combined solid defence with clever strokeplay. ■K.R. DEEPAK

ways look for opportunities. Yes, there will be a lot of challenges ahead but I'm not focussing on all of those. It's pretty important for me to stay in the present and think about what I need to do today. I was very clear in my mind."

He added, "The initial period will be tough. You have

to focus on the basics. Playing close to your body, leaving the ball. In India, after the early overs, the ball doesn't swing."

On his unbeaten double century opening partnership with Mayank Agarwal, Rohit said, "Me and Mayank, we always spoke between the overs, about how we

need to try and find those little gaps and place the ball between those two fielders and try and rotate the strike because that is very important on a pitch where it's slower and lower."

India connection

South African debutant and left-arm spinning all-rounder Senuran Muthusamy said, "Of course, it [debut] is very special.

"My forefathers are from the South of India, Tamil Nadu. But it is one of the things, I am firmly South African, a few generations down the line. But yes, no getting away from that."

He added, "I learnt from my first day [in Test cricket] that you need to compete every ball. You need to plug away and thereby try to take control."

About the pitch here, Muthusamy said, "It is going to deteriorate like any wicket in the sub-continent.

"From a left-hander's perspective, that's a part of the game."

Our bowlers need to make adjustments: Pollock

S. DINAKAR
VISAKHAPATNAM

Shaun Pollock's astonishing control and seam movement coupled with his languid and graceful strokeplay made him a true blue all-rounder.

The great South African, with 421 Test scalps at 23.11 and 3781 runs at 32.31, was as

influential as they come.

After the first day's play on Wednesday, he shared his thoughts with *The Hindu*.

Not lacking experience

Pollock said since Vernon Philander, Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi had combined well over the last two

years, the pace attack was not lacking in experience.

He said, "Perhaps, the conditions are not suiting our bowlers here. They have to think out of the box, apply all their experience to be effective in these conditions."

On the secret to success in India for visiting pacemen,

the 46-year-old Pollock said, "There are moments in the game when you need to cash in. It is vital when you have the new ball in your hand, you got to make it count.

"Later, you have to get the ball to reverse. And you have to be clever when you bowl at different batsmen."

On the manner Rabada and Philander operated here, he said, "They beat the outside edge, asked an awful lot of questions in the first 10 overs in particular. But they needed to make early inroads." Pollock noted, "Our bowlers need to make adjustments. Our last Test was in February-March. You just don't walk into Test cricket and find your length and rhythm."

The South African great felt the team could have gone with a third paceman.

Ngidi, Pollock said, would be his preferred third seamer. "Nortje has got some skill, some real pace and if he is harnessed really well, he can be a central person but he is new to the subcontinent. I would go for Ngidi."

About Rohit Sharma's future as a Test opener, he noted, "Given his Test career, he has always done a brilliant job in India. His biggest challenges will come when he has to go overseas."

Pollock conceded he missed watching Jasprit Bumrah in this series.

"I would have loved to see Bumrah. I am disappointed he is not playing. I have really been impressed by Bumrah."

STAT SPHERE

1 Rohit is the first Indian, and eighth overall, to score a hundred in all three formats as an opener. The others are: Gayle, McCullum, Guptill, Dilshan, Shehzad, Watson and Tamim

2 Rohit is the second batsman to score 50-plus runs in six Test innings on the trot in India, after Dravid (1997-98)

3 Rohit and Mayank's unbeaten 202-run partnership is the third highest by an Indian opening combination in its first time together

410 Sehwag-Dravid vs Pakistan, 2005-06

289 M. Vijay-Dhawan, 2012-13

4 Rohit is the fourth to make a century in his maiden innings as Test opener for India

187 Shikhar Dhawan vs Aus, Mohali, 2012-13

110 K.L. Rahul

vs Aus, Sydney, 2014-15

134 Prithvi Shaw vs WI, Rajkot, 2018-19

115* Rohit Sharma vs SA, Visakhapatnam, 2019-20 * in progress

For Dhawan and Shaw, it was their Test debut too

Fourth Test hundred by Rohit and all have been scored at home

Mayank is the seventh Indian to make a 50-plus in his first Test

innings, both at home and away.

- He had scored 76 against Australia in Melbourne in 2018.
- Rusi Modi, Surinder Amarnath, Arun Lal, Sourav Ganguly, Suresh Raina and Hardik Pandya are the others to achieve the feat

Number of tosses South Africa has lost consecutively in Tests in the sub-continent

Rohit in Tests at home and away — contrasting study

	HOME	AWAY
TESTS	10*	18
INNINGS	15	33
RUNS	884	816
AVERAGE	98.22	26.32
CENTURIES	4	
HS	177	79

* INCLUDING THE CURRENT TEST

213 Virender Sehwag and Wasim Jaffer's opening stand in Chennai in 2008, the last time a double century association came against South Africa in Tests

Only three countries have managed 200-plus opening stands against South Africa - five times each by England and Australia and thrice by India. After the Proteas' return to the Test fold in 1992, India has done it thrice, Australia twice and England once

Pakistan wins series 2-0

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by five wickets in the third and final ODI on Wednesday, taking the three-match series 2-0. After Danushka Gunathilaka carried Lanka to 297 for nine, Fakhar Zaman (76) and Abid Ali (74) shone for the host.

The scores: Sri Lanka 297 for nine in 50 overs (Danushka Gunathilaka 133) lost to Pakistan 299 for five in 48.2 overs (Fakhar Zaman 76, Abid Ali 74, Haris Sohail 56).

CoA calls for BCCI GBM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Wednesday officially called for BCCI's General Body Meeting (GBM) on October 23 but made it clear that only 'compliant' members will be allowed to attend.

Kapil resigns

Kapil Dev has tendered his resignation from the Cricket Advisory Committee in the wake of Conflict of Interest notice served by Ethics Officer D.K. Jain.

Poonam gets her wrong 'uns right

Has been the star performer in the T20I series against South Africa

SA-WOMEN IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
SURAT

Poonam Yadav was beaming when she met reporters on Tuesday night. The leg-spinner had just won the Player-of-the-Match award in India's 51-run victory over South Africa, finishing with three for 13 from three overs.

For the second game in a row, the 27-year-old from Uttar Pradesh had come close to performing a hat-trick, picking up two wickets in as many balls.

In the thick of it

Poonam, who now has 79 scalps in T20Is and 63 in ODIs, has spearheaded the Indian spin attack in the series, taking five wickets so far. She said there was some help for the spinners from the pitch.

"It is a sporting wicket," she said. "It is assisting the batters as well."

She, however, sounded disappointed that she could not complete the hat-trick in either match. "I had tried hard to get that third wicket on both occasions but could



On a string: Poonam's loop and variations have bamboozled the South Africans. ■VIJAY SONEJI

not," she said.

"As for this game, I had taken all my three wickets with googlies, but I didn't want to give away a boundary with

my hat-trick ball. So I had to bowl accordingly."

She said it felt great to play in front of big crowds. "There was so much noise

Lyles leads an American gold rush

IAAF World Athletics Championships
DOHA2019
بطولة العالم للالعاب القوى - الدوحة

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DOHA

Noah Lyles led a triumphant night for the United States on Tuesday at the World athletics Championships just hours after the sport had been rocked by the suspension of controversial coach Alberto Salazar.

Lyles produced a courageous performance to win the 200m title, whilst Donovan Brazier — who was part of the Nike Oregon Project that Salazar ran — became the first

Indians in action

- Men's shot put, qualification round, Group 'B' (Tajinderpal Singh Toor, 11.10 p.m., IST)
- Men's 1500m, heats (Jinson Johnson, 1.05 a.m.)

American to win the 800m World crown.

Sam Kendricks came out on top in men's pole vault and joined Sergey Bubka in being the only men to successfully defend the title.

Annu finishes eighth

India's Annu Rani finished

eighth in women's javelin.

P.U. Chitra clocked a personal best of 4:11.10s while finishing eighth in her 1500m heats but it was not enough to fetch her a semifinal berth.

The results: Men: 200m: 1. Noah Lyles (USA) 19.83s, 2. Andre De Grasse (Can) 19.95, 3. Alex Quinonez (Ecu) 19.98. 800m: 1. Donovan Brazier (USA) 1:42.34, 2. Amel Tuka (BIH) 1:43.47, 3. Ferguson Rotich (Ken) 1:43.82. Pole vault: 1. Sam Kendricks (USA) 5.97m, 2. Armand Duplantis (Swe) 5.97, 3. Piotr Lisek (Pol) 5.87.

Women: Javelin: 1. Kelsey-Lee Barber (Aus) 66.56m, 2. Liu Shiying (Chn) 65.88, 3. Lyu Huihui (Chn) 65.49; 8. Annu Rani (Ind) 61.12.



Running to glory: Noah Lyles eases past the finish line. ■GETTY IMAGES

TV PICKS

India v South Africa: 1st Test, Day 2, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Hero Indian Women's Open golf: DSport, 12.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
IAAF World Championships: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 7 p.m.
UEFA Europa League: Sony Ten 1, 2, 3, Six and ESPN (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Bernardo Silva charged over Mendy tweet
LONDON
Manchester City's Bernardo Silva has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association over a now deleted, controversial social media post comparing teammate Benjamin Mendy with a black cartoon character. "It is alleged that the Manchester City player's activity breaches FA Rule E3(1) as it was insulting and/or improper and/or brought the game into disrepute," said a FA statement. **AFF**



Pakistan recalls Shehzad, Umar for Sri Lanka T20Is
KARACHI
Pakistan on Wednesday recalled controversial opener Ahmed Shehzad and middle-order batsman Umar Akmal (*in pic*) for the three-match Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka starting this weekend. **The squad:** Sarfaraz Ahmed (captain), Babar Azam, Ahmed Shehzad, Asif Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Sohail, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Haseen, Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, Umar Akmal, Usman Shinwari and Wahab Riaz. **AFF**



Healy hits highest score in women's T20Is
SYDNEY
Australian Alyssa Healy set a world record for the highest individual score in a women's Twenty20 international with an unbeaten 148 (61b, 19x4, 7x6) against Sri Lanka on Wednesday. Healy's knock eclipsed teammate Meg Lanning's 133 scored against England two months ago. Australia scored 226 for two and won by 132 runs when it restricted Sri Lanka to 94 for seven in its 20 overs. **AFF**

Big win for Ajmal Khan Club
NEW DELHI
Ajmal Khan Club beat Bright Club by eight wickets in the inaugural match of the 12th Pelican cricket tournament here. **The scores:** Bright CC 73 (Ayush Kumar three for two) lost to Ajmal Khan CC 74 for two.

U Mumba & Bulls make PKL playoffs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PANCHKULA
U Mumba and Bengaluru Bulls sealed playoff berths in the PKL with a 30-26 win over Patna Pirates and 59-36 verdict over Haryana Steelers respectively on Wednesday.
The result: U Mumba 30 (Abhishek Singh 7, Athul 5, Rohit Baliyan 5) bt Patna Pirates 26 (Pardeep Narwal 8, Mohammad Esmail 5).
Bengaluru Bulls 59 (Pawan Kumar 39) bt Haryana Steelers 36 (Prashanth Rai 17, Vikash Khandola 6).

Gnarby leads Bayern rout of Spurs

Real survives Brugge; routine wins for City, PSG, Atleti and Juventus

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS
Serge Gnabry scored four second-half goals as Bayern Munich came from behind to hand last season's runner-up Tottenham Hotspur a stunning 7-2 home defeat in the Champions League on Tuesday after Real Madrid escaped with a 2-2 draw against Club Brugge.
There were routine wins for Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Atletico Madrid, while Cristiano Ronaldo netted in a comfortable Juventus victory, but most of the drama was in north London.
The evening started well for Spurs as Son Heung-min fired across Manuel Neuer and into the far corner to give Mauricio Pochettino's team the lead against Bayern.
The evening started well for Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Atletico Madrid, while Cristiano Ronaldo netted in a comfortable Juventus victory, but most of the drama was in north London.
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Roaring back
However, the German champion came roaring back to leave Spurs on the receiving end of the biggest ever home



Letting it rip: Serge Gnabry made Tottenham pay for some shambolic defending with four second half goals. **■AFF**
defeat for an English team in Europe. It was the first time it has ever conceded seven goals in a home game.
Two super strikes from Joshua Kimmich and Robert Lewandowski had Bayern ahead at the break and Gnabry, the former Arsenal winger, then scored two goals two minutes apart to make it four early in the second half.
Harry Kane reduced the arrears from the penalty spot, but Gnabry ran through to complete his hat-trick on 83 minutes and he smacked in the seventh goal after Lewandowski had netted his second of the evening.
In Madrid, record 13-time

champion Real was 2-0 down at half-time at home to Club Brugge, for whom the Nigerian forward Emmanuel Dennis scored a first-half brace.
But Zinedine Zidane's team came storming back as Sergio Ramos headed in before Casemiro claimed a dramatic equaliser in the 85th minute, seconds after Ruud Vormer had been sent off for the visitors.
The results: Group A: Real Madrid 2 (Ramos 55, Casemiro 85) drew with Club Brugge 2 (Dennis 9, 39); Galatasaray 0 lost to Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Icardi 52).
Group B: Red Star Belgrade 3 (Vulic 63, Milunovic 87, Boakye 90) bt Olympiakos 1 (Semedo 37); Tottenham 2 (Son 12, Kane 61-pen) lost to Bayern Munich 7 (Kimmich 15, Lewandowski 45, 87, Gnabry 53, 55, 83, 88).
Group C: Atalanta 1 (Zapata 28) lost to Shakhtar Donetsk 2 (Moraes 41, Solomon 90+5); Manchester City 2 (Sterling 66, Foden 90+5) bt Dinamo Zagreb 0.
Group D: Juventus 3 (Higuain 17, Bernardeschi 62, Ronaldo 89) bt Bayer Leverkusen 0; Lokomotiv Moscow 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (Felix 48, Partey 58).

Prajwal prevails over Dhakshineswar in marathon

Second seed Goveas gets a free coaching lesson from Bendre before winning

NATL. TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI
After an intense fight, the winner dropped on the ground exhausted, unable to even take two steps to the net to shake hands with his opponent.
Helping hand
The towering Suresh Dhakshineswar crossed the net to extend a helping hand to fifth seed S.D. Prajwal Dev who won 3-6, 7-6(2), 6-1, in energy sapping conditions in the men's pre-quarterfinals of the Fenesta National tennis championship here on Wednesday.
However, Prajwal Dev needed medical attention. He will have to recover his energy to challenge top seed



Hard-fought win: C. Sravya Shivani overcame Akanksha Nitture in three sets. **■KAMESH SRINIVASAN**
Dalwinder Singh.
Second seed Aryan Goveas got a free coaching lesson from Anvit Bendre before he prevailed 7-6(2) in the third set.
In the women's event, C. Sravya Shivani gave a hint of her form and fitness by taming Akanksha Nitture 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.
Four-time champion Prerna Bhambri overcame a fluent stroking Arthi Munian for the loss of five games, and will face Shreya Tatavarthi.
In the junior boys' section, Rohan Mehra wriggled past Aryaan Bhatia 7-6(8), 7-5 to reach the quarterfinals.
He will face Chirag Duhan.
In the girls' section, Pooja Ingale beat third seed Sarah Dev 6-4, 6-3, to set up a quarterfinal against Prerna Vichare.

India bows out after loss to Japan

To compete for 9-16 classification positions

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KAZAN (RUSSIA)
Japan defeated India 4-1 in a Group E encounter of the BWF World junior mixed team badminton championships here on Wednesday.
Tanisha Crasto and Ishaan Bhatnagar continued their winning streak in the mixed doubles and gave India a much-needed lead over Japan.
Tanisha's precise smashes and Ishaan's dominant net play over Japan's Kakeru Kumagai and Atsumi Miyazaki ensured a commanding start for India as it won 21-18, 21-18 in 33 minutes.
However, India lost the remaining matches to bow out of the competition.
In girls' singles, Riko Gunji defeated Tasnim Mir 21-9, 21-12 while Takuma Kawamoto got the better of

Maisnam Meiraba Luwang 21-17, 17-21, 23-21 in the boys encounter. In doubles, Kaho Osawa and Hinata Suzuki emerged 21-12, 24-22 winners over Treasa Jolly and Varshini Viswanath Sri.
In the final match of the tie, Yoshifumi Fujisawa and Kakeru Kumagai downed Manjit Singh Khwairakpam and Dingku Singh Konthoujam 21-16, 21-14 in just 26 minutes.
India will now compete for the 9-16 classification positions in the knock-out stage.
The results:
Japan bt India 4-1 (Kakeru Kumagai & Atsumi Miyazaki lost to Tanisha Crasto & Ishaan Bhatnagar 18-21, 18-21; Riko Gunji bt Tasnim Mir 21-9, 21-12; Takuma Kawamoto bt Maisnam Meiraba Luwang 21-17, 17-21, 23-21; Kaho Osawa & Hinata Suzuki bt Treasa Jolly & Varshini Viswanath Sri 21-12, 24-22; Yoshifumi Fujisawa & Kakeru Kumagai bt Manjit Singh Khwairakpam & Dingku Singh Konthoujam 21-16, 21-14).

Vijay Hazare Trophy scores

ELITE: Group A (Bengaluru): Karnataka 285 for seven in 50 overs (K.L. Rahul 81, Manish Pandey 142 n.o.) bt Chhattisgarh 206 in 44.4 overs (Shashank Chandrakar 42, Ashutosh Singh 32, Amandeep Khare 43, Prasad Krishna three for 31, Shreyas Gopal three for 53).
■ Saurashtra 298 for three in 50 overs (Samarth Vyas 124, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 82, Arpit Vasavada 63 n.o.) bt Andhra 145 in 37.3 overs (Karan Shinde 52, Shoaib Mohammed Khan 35, Jaidev Unadkat three for 18).
■ Jharkhand 258 for five in 36 overs (Ishan Kishan 47, Kumar Deobrat 54, Saurabh Tiwary 49 (ret'd. hurt), Anukul Roy 31 n.o., Sandeep Warrier three for 38) bt Kerala 253 in 36 overs (Vishnu Vinod 56, Sanju Samson 48, Sachin Baby 60, P. Rahul 36, Anukul Royfour for 31, Utkarsh Singh four for 38).
Group B (Vadodara): Odisha 145 for eight in 21 overs (Sub-ranshu Senapati 39, Abhishek Yadav 34, Prayash Singh 31 n.o., Ankit Maini three for 14) bt Himachal Pradesh 142 for nine in 21 overs (Prashant Chopra 48, Govinda Poddar four for 27).
■ Maharashtra v Vidarbha and Punjab v Haryana. Matches washed out

PLATE (Dehradun): Chandigarh 207 for two in 20 overs (Manan Vohra 108 n.o.) bt Arunachal Pradesh 117 for seven in 20 overs (Rahul Dalal 76 n.o., Gurinder Singh four for 12).
■ Assam 207 in 47.4 overs (Abu Nechim 31, Nagaho Chishi five for 25) bt Nagaland 137 in 41.4 overs (Rongsen Jonathan 46, Pritam Das five for 22).
■ Mizoram 67 in 33.2 overs (Vinay Kumar three for 14, Damodaran Rohit three for two) lost to Puducherry 71 for mo loss in 13.2 overs (V. Marimuthu 44 n.o.).
THURSDAY'S MATCHES (9 A.M. START)
ELITE: Group C (Jaipur): Railways v J&K, Gujarat v Bihar, Bengal v Rajasthan

India finishes on a high

SPORTS REPORTER BENGALURU
India ended its campaign at the 10th Asian Age Group Championships on a high as divers Palak Sharma and Siddharth Pradeshi earned the country's 19th and 20th gold medals.
Palak, for whom it was the first international competition, impressed with a score of 162.70 in the 5m/7.5m platform diving for women to finish ahead of Sudirman Nur Nufidiah of Indonesia (150.65) and Villafor Jana Mary of Philippines (149.30). Siddharth, meanwhile, emerged victorious in the 10m platform men's open category. With a score of 379.00, he outperformed Iran's Mojtaba Valipour (273.75) and Qatar's Shewaiter Mohammed Ahmed (266.50). India ended with (20 gold, 24 silver and 20 bronze.

Vedant stuns defending champion Gazik

Praggnanandhaa outwits Botta; winning starts for other title-aspirants too

YOUTH CHESS

RAKESH RAO MUMBAI
The first round of any Swiss league format brings the second half of the field face to face with their opposite numbers from the top half. As a result, the outcome of these face-offs follow predictable course with the serious contenders warming up with a winning start.
As per script
Barring a few results, the script in all six categories of the World Youth chess championship produced expected winners.
Mercifully, the day did not end without an Indian causing a big surprise. In the under-18 section, little-known Vedant Panesar seized the moment to nail defending champion and fourth seed

Slovakian Viktor Gazik.

Mockery of ratings
Earlier, Aditya Gampa made a mockery of the rating difference of 503 points to hold fourth seeded Russian Andrey Tsvetkov in 29 moves in the under-14 section.
Gazik, uncharacteristically passive in his approach, helped Vedant's cause by taking unduly long to play his moves.
Vedant exerted more pressure and eventually Gazik, rated 327 points higher at 2546, cracked.
Vedant's 66-move win came after top seed Armenian Shant Sargsyan and second-seeded R. Praggnanandhaa recorded contrasting wins.
Playing black, Praggnanandhaa needed 35 moves to outwit Italy's Massimiliano Botta who surprised the



Chennai-lad by starting with a push to the queen-pawn, unlike his preferred king-pawn opening.
Praggnanandhaa came up with some original ideas to claim Botta's rook for a minor piece and coasted to a comfortable win.
In the under-14 girls' section, the top two seeds Divya Deshmukh and Rakshit Ravi needed just 24 and 15 moves, respectively, to start

their campaigns.
Girls' under-16 third seed Mrudul Dehankar, too, won as expected.
Meanwhile, the non-arrival of the customised connectors from Ahmedabad cost the first-round's live streaming of the games. Gujarat Chess Association offered 68 DGT boards and Delhi offered 30 for this championship.
The organisers plan to live stream 95 boards, comprising the top-20 from under-18 and 15 each from the remaining five sections.
Leading first-round results:
Under-18: Shant Sargsyan (Arm) bt Vladyslav Sydorukya (Ukr); Massimiliano (Ita) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa; Aryan Ghosami bt Vojtech Srameck (Cze); Vedant Panesar bt Viktor Gazik (Svk); P. Iniyar bt Donoso Diaz Sebastian (Chi).
Under-16: Hans Moke Niermann (USA) bt Sai Karthik; Adrian Ze-

tocha drew with Nikoloz Kacharava (Geo); Santiago Avila Pavaas (Col) bt Giga Goderdzishvili (Geo); Costamilan Tomiello Mateus (Bra) lost to Mamikon Gharbyan (Arm).
Under-14: M. Sreeshwan bt Aniruddha Potawad; Vinay R. Jumanani lost to Volodar Murzin (Rus); Aditya Gampa drew with Andrey Tsvetkov (Rus).
Girls: Under-18: Polina Shuvalova (Rus) bt Kristyna Laurincova (Cze); Emmanuelle Hng Meien (Sgp) drew with Tarmunkh Munkhzul (Mgl); Lara Schulze (Ger) drew with L. Jyotsna; Al-cicia Sliwicka (Pol) drew with Sanskriti Goyal; Srishti Pandey lost to Vantika Agarwal.
Under-16: Sri Poorna lost to Gohar Beydullayeva (Aze); Mrudul Dehankar bt Kristyna Otrubova (Cze); Raman Meenakshi lost to Nazerke Nurgali (Kaz).
Under-14: Divya Deshmukh bt Fatima Marium; Cancino Patricia Anastas Abdala lost to Rakshit Ravi; Tanvi Hadkonkar drew with Umida Omonova (Uzb).

Indian women suffer first loss

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MARLOW
The Indian women's hockey team tasted its first defeat on its England tour when it went down 3-1 to Great Britain in the fourth match here on Wednesday.
Great Britain took an early lead through Hannah Martin (5th minute) before Neha Goyal (18th) scored the equaliser.
However, goals from Charlotte Watson (29th) and Giselle Ansley (50th) snapped India's unbeaten run in the last three matches of the tour.
World No. 9 India had notched up a 2-1 win in the first match, before drawing the next two games 1-1 and 0-0 respectively.
India will play Great Britain in its fifth and final match of the Tour on Friday.

EB appeals for postponement of replay

Requests new date citing unavailability of its coach

CFL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA
The 'replay' of the abandoned Calcutta Football League (CFL) premier division 'A' match between East Bengal (EB) and Calcutta Customs Club has run into fresh trouble with the former requesting for a new date citing unavailability of its coach as the reason.
The governing body of football in the state and the organiser of the League - Indian Football Association (IFA) - is not willing to buy the former champion's logic and has decided to go ahead with the match, scheduled

at 2.30 p.m. at the Kalyani Stadium on Thursday.
"We have made full arrangements and are going ahead with the match as scheduled at Kalyani Stadium. It is now East Bengal's decision to turn out for the match," said IFA secretary Joydeep Mukherjee.
"We have received a letter from the investor of East Bengal and the club requesting a postponement of the match owing to the unavailability of their coach (Alejandro Menendez) but we are sticking to the original schedule," he added.
Next decision
The IFA secretary said the

organiser will be taking the next decision based on the referee's report in case the match falls through.
In such a situation, Peerless SC, which currently leads the standings with 23 points from 11 matches, has held back its celebrations of a maiden triumph for more than 10 days as the IFA goes into festive holidays from Friday.
Must-win situation
East Bengal, the 39-time champion, has 20 points from 10 outings and needs to win its last match against Calcutta Customs Club by a margin of minimum seven goals.

Diksha to lead Indian challenge

Competition will be stiff with the participation of top women golfers

GOLF

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

Diksha Dagar, the youngest Indian woman titlist on the Ladies European tour, will be leading the charge from the Indian side in the 13th edition of the Hero Indian Women's Open which starts on Thursday.

As a professional this will be her first appearance after playing as an amateur the last three years. "It is going to be exciting, playing as a professional here for the first time," said the 18-year-old Diksha.

The Open is a prestigious tournament which boasts of the defending champion Becky Morgan, 2017 winner Camille Chevalier and other leading names like Carly Booth, Beth Allen, and Solheim Cup 2019 winning team Europe's captain Catriona Matthew. Various LET win-



Aiming high: After playing as an amateur for three year, Diksha Dagar will look to make a mark as a professional when the Hero Women's India Open tees off. ■ GETTY IMAGES

ners like Meghan MacLaren, Marianne Skarpnord, Kanyalak Preedasuttijit, Astrid Vayson de Pradenne, Florentyna

Parker and Linda Wessberg will also make the competition stiff.

With the participation of a

total of 22 Indians, which includes six amateurs, the home golfers are hopeful of making their presence felt.

Diksha, Vaani Kapoor, Gaurika Bishnoi, Tvesa Malik, Ridhima Dilawari, who turned pro last year, Amandeep Drall, Astha Madan, Gursimar Badwal and others will also lend to the local flavour.

Good year

Diksha, who currently stands 55th in the Olympic rankings, says it has overall been a good year. "I started really well in Australia and that helped me to win in South Africa (the Women's Open this March). Since then, I have been playing tournaments on different courses, travelling a lot. The South Africa Open win gave me breathing space in terms of equipment, and now that I have secured my card, I can now try different equipment, clubs, specifications."

This is the first major sporting event in India to discourage single-use of plastic bottles.

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

For former National champion Asif Ismail, it was time to catch up with old friends.

"I am coming to the DLTA after nearly two decades. There is a big change in the infrastructure. I remember the lawns, where a big building is standing now. It looks so different," said Asif, who has settled at a sports centre in Hong Kong with his family. Apart from India, he also played Davis Cup for Hong Kong.

Quite pleased to get a memento from the organisers of the Fenesta National championship who are celebrating 25 years of their association with Indian tennis by hosting the premier event, Asif said it was a "great gesture."

Asif missed a chance to meet fellow champions as he was busy visiting the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Monday when more than a dozen champions were felicitated at the DLTA by the DCM Shriram Group.

Monotonous

"Tennis has become very difficult. It has become physical and monotonous. The kids better focus on education and keep playing till they manage to stay in the game,"



Reunion: Asif Ismail, right, greets Rajeev Naidu. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

said Asif.

Recalling the good time he had had while laying the foundation for his career at the Britannia Amritraj Tennis (BAT) Academy in Chennai, Asif revealed that the key to success was the eight best players in the country training together with the best possible guidance.

"It was the first such centre in the region. The others started after seeing the success of BAT," said Asif. "There was discipline and we did not have any distraction. There were no mobile phones then," said Asif, who was happy to meet his friends Manoj Kumar and Rajeev Naidu who coach in Tamil Nadu. He immediately broke into smooth Tamil while greeting them, thanks

to his long stay in Chennai.

He conceded that the game had become a lot commercial, and that he was seeing more coaches than players.

The Wall coach

Asif stressed that there was no better coach than a wall.

"You play the wall which does not miss. There is no better coach than it. I don't see players picking up a bucket and doing the serve these days. We had better serve because we practised so much. If you work on your volleys and bring new dimensions to your game, you have a better chance," said Asif, who had lost the National grass court final to Mahesh Bhupathi in 1994 at Chandigarh.

Inderjeet Singh may appeal after adverse CAS order

Shot-putter expected to serve rest of four-year suspension

ATHLETICS

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Shot putter Inderjeet Singh may appeal against the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) order which has overturned the decision of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) appeal panel to re-impose a four-year suspension on the former Asian champion for doping violations. The CAS order has not been made public.

A source close to Inderjeet said the Asian Games bronze medallist might challenge the order. "It came two days ago and is a long one. We have to study it and consider appealing within 21 days. The CAS has already put the costs on us and international arbitrations are expensive affairs," said the source on Wednesday.

Following a long-drawn procedure lasting around one-and-a-half years, a NADA disciplinary panel in July 2018 had pronounced a four-year suspension on Inderjeet, who tested positive



Inderjeet Singh. ■ FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

twice – on June 22, 2016 and June 29, 2016 out-of-competition and in-competition tests respectively – for banned steroids.

Exonerated, but...

The NADA appeal panel, on December 14 last, had exonerated Inderjeet on grounds of deviations in international standards including the chain of custody.

The appeal panel noted the fact that in case of the sample collected at Bhiwani on June 22, 2016, there was a gap of several hours between the collection time

and submission time. It was stated that the sample was stored overnight at the residence of the dope control officer.

The panel underlined that there was a difference in the amount of sample collected by the dope control officer at Hyderabad on June 29, 2016 and the one that was received and recorded by the laboratory. Besides, NADA did not do a proper initial review of the samples as mandated by the rules.

World Anti-Doping Agency moved CAS against the appeal panel order. CAS sole arbitrator Markus Manninen did not agree with the appeal panel decision and overturned it.

Following the CAS decision, 31-year-old Inderjeet, who was provisionally suspended on July 25, 2016, and continued to be ineligible after the NADA disciplinary panel order until he was exonerated by the appeal panel on December 14, 2018, would now serve the remainder of the four-year suspension.

India to miss Bheke

IAN S
NEW DELHI

India defender Rahul Bheke was on Wednesday ruled out of the FIFA World Cup Qualifier against Bangladesh due to an injury, the All India Football Federation

(AIFF) said. "Owing to an injury, @RahulBheke will not be able to join the #BlueTigers' preparatory camp before @FIFAWorldCup qualifier against Bangladesh. We wish him a speedy recovery," the AIFF tweeted.

Bopanna-Shapovalov duo in last eight

Ramkumar loses to Robredo in Barcelona Challenger

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
TOKYO

Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov of Canada reached the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 7-6(3) victory over wild card entrants Fabrice Martin and Yasutaka Uchiyama in the \$2,046,340 ATP500 tennis tournament on Wednesday.

In the quarterfinals, they will play Nikola Mektic and Franko Skugor of Croatia.

In the Barcelona Challenger, Ramkumar Ramanathan lost in the singles second round, but made the doubles quarterfinals with Sergio Martos Gornes of Spain.

The results: \$2,046,340 ATP500, Tokyo, Japan: Dou-

bles (pre-quarterfinals): Denis Shapovalov (Can) & Rohan Bopanna bt Fabrice Martin (Fra) & Yasutaka Uchiyama (Jpn) 6-3, 7-6(3).

\$54,160 Challenger, Campinas, Brazil: Singles (second round): Sumit Nagal bt Gastao Elias (Por) 4-1 (retired).

\$54,160 Challenger, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan: Singles (second round): Konstantin Kravchuk (Rus) bt Sasi Kumar Mukund 6-4, 6-2.

€46,600 Challenger, Barcelona, Spain: Singles (second round): Tommy Robredo (Esp) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-5, 6-4.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sergio Martos Gornes (Esp) & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Tomislav Brkic (Bih) & Ante Pavic (Cro) 3-6, 6-3, [10-7].

\$25,000 ITF men, Tavira, Portugal: Singles (first round):

Alexandre Muller (Fra) bt Terence Das 6-2, 6-2.

\$25,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Singles (first round): Sidharth Rawat bt Dac Tien Nguyen (Vie) 7-5, 6-2; Manish Sureshkumar bt Krittin Koaykul (Tha) 6-0, 6-3; Makoto Ochi (Jpn) bt Arjun Kadhe 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Nanchang, China: Singles (first round): Daisuke Sumizawa (Jpn) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Pol Wattanakul (Tha) 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Oleg Khoklov (Ukr) & Aliaksandr Liaonenka (Blr) bt Tsung-Hao Huang (Tpe) & Tarun Anirudh Chilakalapudi 6-3, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF men, Antalya, Turkey: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Kelsey Stevenson (Can) & Adil Kalyanpur bt Luca Gelhardt & Kai Wehnelt (Ger) 6-7(7), 7-6

(3), [10-4].

\$15,000 ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Singles (first round): Sathwika Sama bt Suhana Sofia Mohd. Adam Das (Mas) 6-1, 6-1; Romana Disovska (Svk) bt Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Pretoria, South Africa: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Merel Hoedt (Ned) & Zeel Desai bt Elena Jamshidi (Den) & Hili Kronzon (Isr) 6-1, 6-1; Alexandra Riley (US) & Snehal Mane bt Marne Dercksen & Mbali Langa (RSA) 6-4, 7-5; Clara Vlasselaer (Bel) & Sri Vaishnavi Peddi Reddy bt Shannon Cox & Amy Olivier (RSA) 7-6(1), 5-7, [10-8].

\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Daria Solov'yeva (Rus) & Jennifer Luikham bt Nicole Pou (Arg) & Humera Shaik 6-4, 6-3.

Salazar used athletes as 'laboratory animals'

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BERLIN

Top coach Alberto Salazar, banned for four years following a doping probe, used athletes as "laboratory animals", the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA)'s chief Travis Tygart said on Wednesday.

"You must understand that the athletes really had no idea what was going on with them, what was being given to them," Tygart said on Wednesday.

"An athlete was even told she needed medication for a myoma, even though she didn't have a myoma at all," said Tygart.

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